Wednesday
4th March, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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Wednesday, 4th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN CALCUTTA

*177. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the work of introducing automatic telephones at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, (i) how far the work has proceeded and when it is expected to be finished; and

(ii) which of the exchanges at Calcutta are to be completed first?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) A copy of the latest progress report is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 12.]

The whole work in all its phases is likely to be completed by 1957-58.

(ii) Three exchanges, Central (4000 lines), Jorasanko (5600 lines) and Avenue (4200 lines). These are expected to be in operation by August, 1953.

Shri A. C. Guha: The statement laid on the Table is a very complicated one. May I ask the hon. Minister when he would be in a position to say here that he has reversed the position entirely as stated by his predecessor in office, that the Calcutta Exchange is as bad as it possibly can be, and that the services are worst and the charges are the highest?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I just mentioned we hope to complete the entire automatization scheme by 1957-58 and I think that all the complaints that have just now been referred to here will be removed by that time.

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not find any mention about the Burra Bazaar Exchange. Is it the idea that Burra Bazaar would be renamed or divided into several exchanges or that it will not be taken over?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Burra Bazaar area is, I believe, covered by the Jorasanko and Avenue exchanges.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what will be the total cost of the introduction of automatic telephones at Calcutta?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Rs. 14 crores, 47 lakhs.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that the whole work will be completed by 1957. May I know when we may expect the first automatic exchange to be in operation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I just mentioned the exchanges in first stage are expected to be in operation by August 1953.

Shri Punnoose: Is it proposed to introduce this system in other places?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We hope to automatize the whole country in course of time but that will take a good deal of time and money.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any arrangements are being made to improve the service in Calcutta between now and 1957?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are having complaints constantly under attention. We are arranging to improve the service.

ELECTRIFICATION OF SUBURBAN RAILWAYS OF CALCUTTA

***478. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for electrification of the suburban railways of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, (i) which of the lines are to be taken up;

(ii) when is the work expected to be undertaken and to be completed; and

(iii) what is the estimated expenditure?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) A decision of the lines to be taken up for electrification will be taken on the results of the survey to be made during 1953-54.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) The cost will depend on the sections finally selected for electrification.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if Government has any idea whether all the lines within the area around Calcutta will be taken up?

Shri Alagesan: The suburban sections of Howrah and Sealdah Divisions are taken up.

Shri A. C. Guha: Up to what area from Calcutta or from Howrah?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the exact limit.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know when this investigation or survey is likely to be completed and when the actual work will be started?

Shri Alagesan: The survey is proposed to be carried out next year.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May we know if there is any body set up to undertake this job of investigation?

Shri Alagesan: The survey will be done in the usual manner by the Eastern Railway.

RUST

***480. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the approximate quantity of foodgrains lost each year owing to rust?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to control the growth of cereal rust?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the growing of rust resistant varieties of foodgrains?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the information given on 23rd February 1953 in reply to Starred Question No. 241 put by Shri Barman.

Besides wheat, other foodgrains like barley, *Jowar, bajra,* smaller millets, lentil and gram are also affected by rusts. The causal organism in each is, however, different.

No estimate has been made of the damage caused except in regard to wheat. Co-ordinated research is already in progress for breeding rust resistant varieties.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether all the State Governments have started this rust controlling work?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not all the State Governments, but a good many of them are trying to grow rust resistant varieties.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह बात सही है कि मध्य प्रदेश के कृषि विभाग ने गेंहूं के दो इस तरह के बीज पैदा किये हैं कि जिन में रस्ट (rust) बहुत कम लगती है और क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि यह बीज अभी इतने तैयार नहीं हुए हैं कि जिस से वह काफ़ी तादाद में लोगों को दिये जा सकें ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह बात सच साबित हुई है कि जहां हम अच्छे बीज उगाते हैं, वहां वह काफ़ी मात्रा में नहीं मिलती ।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या सरकार इस बात का प्रयत्न कर रही है कि यह बीज काफ़ी तादाद में तैयार हो सकें ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जी हां, इस के लिये सब जगह प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है ।

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know whether any useful researches are undertaken in this direction by our institutes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, and very useful results have been obtained also.

PRICES FOR PEPPER CROP

*481. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Government of India have made any efforts to get better prices for the pepper crop in view of the estimated shortage in the production of pepper for 1953 in the Travancore-Cochin State?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Production figures for the 1952-53 crop are not yet available. The decline in internal prices in the recent past has resulted largely from international factors. Internal prices of commodities largely exported are difficult to maintain if the international prices are also looking down. A Cash Crops Inquiry Committee has been appointed to examine the various aspects of production and marketing of certain important dollar earning crops including pepper with a view to ascertaining if any centralised direction is necessary and feasible.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether any estimates have been made about the shortage in the production of pepper?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government are making any endeavour to give any assistance to the cultivators for its development, at least by spending a portion of the amount which the Government are getting by way of export duty on pepper on scientific research or things like that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not give any detailed information on the point.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that U.S. trade circles have sent complaints to the Government of India that the pepper exported from this country is subject to adulteration and may I also know whether this sort of propaganda through allegations is conducted in order to get the prices of pepper reduced?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Such complaints would be referred to my colleague in charge of Commerce and Industry. It has not come to our notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Ministry has made any inquiries through the Indian Embassy in U.S. in this respect?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir, we have not.

Shri Kelappan: Is it under the contemplation of Government to establish a Pepper Board similar to the Tea or Coffee Board?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not so far.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any of the organisations of the cultivators of pepper have asked for help, and if so, whether any help has been rendered to them?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot go into the whole gamut.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the quantity of pepper produced in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have got the prices and particulars of production. It is a fairly long statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will be laid on the Table.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the countries to which we export our produce?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government propose to set up a production expansion fund for pepper?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This question will arise when we get the report of this inquiry Committee which has been appointed now.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to see that the actual producer of pepper gets the maximum price?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is always the endeavour of the Ministry of Agriculture.

COACH-BUILDING FIRM IN SWITZERLAND

***484. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Special Officer to review the existing arrangement between them and a Coach-building Firm of Switzerland?

(b) If so, will the Officer have the right to scrutinise whether an agreement for associating the Firm with the construction and operation of the proposed workshop at Perambar is necessary?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes; an officer has been placed on special duty to review the agreement with the Coach-building firm, as well as to deal with a few other matters concerning procurement of certain Railway stores from abroad.

(b) The officer will review the agreement and negotiate for its improvement. In the view of Government, a technical aid agreement for the establishment of early and economical production in India of the integral type of coach, is essential.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether the Special Officer who was being appointed had any hand in the previous agreement?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: Is Indian talent not available?

Shri Alagesan: That has been discussed in this House.

Shri Gidwani: The Agreement cannot be cancelled now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Midway?

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether in the terms of the Agreement the Government of India is made liable to pay extra compensation?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. There is no warrant for any such assumption.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India was consulted, or is he likely to be consulted, before making final decisions with regard to this Agreement?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the good of making suggestions which are beyond the scope of anybody's charge?

Shri S. N. Das: Before entering into an Agreement, it is incumbent upon the Government to consult the Auditor-General.

Shri Alagesan: It has already been entered into. We are now trying to revise and improve it in various respects.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in this Agreement, there is any condition regarding the conduct of cases which may arise out of this Agreement?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any arbitration clause?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Legal proceedings.

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice. A copy of the Agreement is available also.

CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

***485. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Chairman of the Central Tractor Organisation has been drawing daily allowance for working both as Chairman C.T.O. and Joint Secretary in the same Station?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): It is not correct to say that the Chairman, Central Tractor Organisation is "drawing daily allowance for working both as Chairman, C.T.O. and Joint Secretary in the same station". The two offices are seven miles away from each other and on any day on which the Chairman, C.T.O., has to work in both offices and uses his own transport for the journey, he is permitted to draw daily allowance according to the rules.

Shri Gidwani: I want to know whether the rules cannot be changed now and cannot a staff car be provided to this officer for coming from C.T.O. office to the Secretariat?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All these suggestions and various other alternatives were examined. It was found that this would be the most economical method.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): I am thankful to the hon. Member for drawing attention to this anomaly and the position will be examined and remedied.

ANCHAL AND TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES OF TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

***489. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to give promotions to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who were formerly employees of the Anchal and Telephone Department of the Travancore-Cochin Government on the basis of their service and the work they perform irrespective of the salary they get;

(b) whether Government have passed any orders to this effect; and

(c) if so, whether this policy is now being implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The ex-State employees taken over by the Posts and Telegraphs Department receive promotion according to the normal rules applicable to regular departmental employees, namely, on the basis of (i) selection, (ii) qualifying in a departmental examination, or (iii) seniority-*cum*-fitness, as the case be, irrespective of salary.

(b) General orders laying down the principles for making promotions to the various grades or services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department are embodied in the Departmental Manuals. Recently instructions have been issued to the subordinate authorities of the Posts and Telegraphs Department that, for purposes of promotion to higher grades, ex-State employees should also be considered along with the other employees of that department in corresponding grades.

(c) Yes.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Since the salaries of the ex-State employees were lower than the salary of the postal employees and since at the time of categorisation, all these employees were categorised on the basis of their salary and the functions they were performing, may I know whether all of them are not categorised as juniors and may I also know whether there is any single instance where an ex-State employee was given promotion during the last three years?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: One single question is enough.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may perhaps disabuse the mind of the hon. Member by saying that the categorisation did not proceed on the ground of salary. As a matter of fact, it proceeded on the ground of responsibility attached to and the scope of work and functions of, any particular post. In most cases the ex-State employees have stood to gain. I may refer for the information of the hon. Member to the instances of Anchal Inspectors and clerks. There were five grades of clerks ranging from Rs. 25—80, the maximum being Rs. 100/-. All of them have been integrated in the grade of Rs. 60—170. Similarly, the highest maximum salary which an Inspector could draw was Rs. 225/-. Now it is fixed in the scale of Rs. 160—250. For the purposes of promotion therefore they are on par with the regular employees of the P. & T. Department.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What I want to know is whether by this categorisation, all these ex-State employees are now in the junior-most posts and whether they have been getting any promotion during the last three years?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There was some difficulty with regard to the determination of their seniority between the ex-State employees on the one hand and the regular P. & T. employees on the other hand *inter se*. Therefore, for some time, it so happened that they, the ex-State employees, were not considered for promotion. When this anomaly was brought to our notice, we at once issued orders that they should not be deprived of such promotions and that seniority should be determined on the basis of their permanent services in a particular post and accordingly that order is now being implemented.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Who is responsible for these anomalies?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The inevitable process of change is responsible because certain principles have got to be formulated, before we can implement them.

Shri P. T. Chacko: I asked twice...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What particular clause of the question was not answered?

Shri P. T. Chacko: In the supplementaries, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

MOBILE POST OFFICES

***490. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether Government propose to extend Mobile Post Offices system in all the major towns in India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The whole question of the system of mobile Post Offices is under examination.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether such mobile post offices will be introduced in Calcutta?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The whole question is under examination. We have got to see whether we can introduce this in the rural areas.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that the whole question is under consideration. May I know whether, after such consideration, this will be extended wholly to all the towns in the same line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is premature.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nayar: Will Government consider the system of mobile post offices as being useful to the public at large?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are always adequate facilities for the public in the larger towns. We propose to examine it for rural areas.

GOODS BOOKING FROM CALCUTTA TO MANIPUR

*491. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the latter part of the answer to starred question No. 866 regarding prices of goods in Manipur asked on the 2nd December, 1952 and state whether it is a fact that no railway booking is allowed for movement of small consignments by goods trains from Calcutta to Manipur Road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No. Goods traffic in 'smalls' is being booked for movement by rail from Calcutta to Manipur Road.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether goods coming by Rail from Calcutta to Imphal take two to six months to reach Imphal, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the transport in this line?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the first part of the question accepted?

Shri Alagesan: It is not, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual transport for goods from Calcutta or any part in this side of India to Imphal? What is the usual time taken for such transport?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member knows that there is an all rail route and a steamer-rail route and an all river route.

Shri A. C. Guha: I heard the hon. Minister to say something like an all river route.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Partly steamer and partly train.

Shri K. K. Basu: And partly imagination.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the usual period that a parcel from calcutta....

Mr Deputy-Speaker: I am not prepared to allow any argument.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not an argument, Sir. I want to know the usual period taken from Calcutta.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The usual period relates to each particular route and there can be an average for each route that is taken: not with respect to all the routes.

Shri Sarmah: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what is the usual time which goods take by Rail from Calcutta to reach the Railway station nearest to Imphal?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice.

Shri Sarmah: May I know then what is the good of saying 'No' to Mr. L. J. Singh's question and that it does not take six months. Hs should have some basis to say how long it takes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To give the exact time, he wants notice. Next question.

AIR FREIGHT FROM CALCUTTA TO IMPHAL

*492. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what is the actual air freight charge per pound from Calcutta to Imphal?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The approved air freight rate for Calcutta-Imphal is Re. 0-7-6 per lb.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it true that the freight charge from Calcutta to Imphal is varying from 0-5-6 to 0-7-6 and if so what are the reasons?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have quoted the present rate. As a matter of fact, the Air Transport Licensing Board have fixed the maximum and minimum.

Shri L. J. Singh: Is it a fact that freight is charged according to the sweet will of the air companies sometimes Re. 0-5-6 and sometimes 0-7-6?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri Raj Bahadur: To a certain extent the hon. Member is right. The Air Transport Licensing Board have fixed the maximum and minimum for freight rates between which the Air companies can charge according to the exigencies of the situation. The rates are 2-12-0 per ton mile and 0-14-0 per ton mile respectively. So far as this route is concerned, the rate can be between 0-7-6 and 0-2-5 per pound.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the fact that there is hardly any usual means of communication between Calcutta or any place this side of India and Imphal, may I know whether Government have made any arrangement for concessional air rates for letters and postal parcels?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I can only say that at the moment the whole future of air transport is in the melting pot.

Shri A. C. Guha: I want to know whether they have made any concessional rate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I need not have allowed this question. It is a suggestion for action. The Minister must take time to consider it.

Shri A. C. Guha: Even then the Minister might have said that this suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for me to say that it is a suggestion.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the present fare for passengers, Rs. 95 from Calcutta to Imphal, is disproportionately high and if so, whether the fares will be reasonably reduced when the Air Corporation comes into existence?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main question does not relate to passenger fares I may however, state that the passenger fare is determined by many factors. I cannot say that it is very high.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG LAPIDARISTS

***494. Shri Kasliwal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is large-scale unemployment among the lapidarists of Jaipur?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in this connection?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The import policy in regard to uncut and unset diamonds has been liberalized and a Public Notice was issued in this respect in January 1953. It is expected that most of the workers rendered unemployed as a result of banning import of diamonds will be re-employed.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how many workers are now unemployed?

Shri V. V. Giri: About 3,000.

CONSULTATIVE BOARD OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR

***495. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the important matters which were considered by the Joint Consultative Board of Industry and Labour since its constitution in July, 1951;

(b) the important decisions reached by the Board;

(c) which of these recommendations were accepted and given effect to by Government; and

(d) the pending important points on which decisions are to be taken in the near future?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 13.]

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that a team of I.L.O. experts has arrived in India for studies of productivity and payment by results. May I know whether the team has started its work and by what time it is expected to finish its work?

Shri V. V. Giri: The team has started its work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any time limit has been fixed for its finishing the work?

Shri V. V. Giri: They are expected to stay here for six months.

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that a bi-partite committee for the textile industry was to be appointed and there was some difficulty. I would like to know where the matter stands, whether it has been dropped or is being considered.

Shri V. V. Giri: The matter is not dropped, but actively pursued.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the Government are aware that the scheme of payment by results is being misused by the employers to tell away labour and to get more work turned out?

Shri V. V. Giri: I take the information from the hon. Member.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. N. Das: One supplementary, Sir. With regard to rationalisation, retrenchment and re-training of retrenched workers, a circular was issued by the Central Government......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called the next question. What is the hon. Member asking?

Shri S. N. Das: One question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. Next question.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF SHIP-OWNERS

***496. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state what are the important recommendations so far made by the Consultative Committee of Shipowners?

(b) Which of these recommendations have been accepted by Government and given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Consultative Committee of Shipowners which consists of representatives of the Indian shipping industry, is a purely advisory body and has been set up to enable the industry to have discussions with representatives of Government on current problems facing the industry and to offer suggestions The Committee has so far held two meetings. The important subjects discussed at these meetings included the question of the grant of certain income-tax concessions to the Indian shipping industry, the collection of shipping statistics, the setting up of a salvage organisation in India and the improvement of existing facilities in certain ports. The suggestions made at the meeting are under Government's consideration.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee is likely to be terminated or it will continue?

Shri Alagesan: It will continue and it will have its next meeting in April.

DIGHA GHAT

***497. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no conveyance except automobiles are allowed to carry passengers from and to Digha Ghat (N.E. Railway)?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are the Government aware that many times the station staff have refused to allow any transport except automobiles?

Shri Alagesan: There is a slope and perhaps they themselves do not go to the jetty. The Railway staff do not prevent them from coming near the jetties.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: I myself have gone and was not allowed to bring my rickshaw there.

Shri Alagesan: That would be looked into.

PATNA MEDICAL COLLEGE

***498. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to the Patna Medical College for upgrading of the Physiology Department;

(b) whether the whole amount has been spent; and

(c) whether the upgrading has been effected?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The amounts allotted by the Central and Bihar Governments for meeting recurring and non-recurring expenditure are:—

(i) *by the Central Government:*

Non-recurring	Rs. 55,000/-
Recurring	Rs. 17,000/- per annum

(ii) *by the Government of Bihar:*

Non-recurring	Rs. 72,000/-
Recurring	Rs. 35,000/- per annum.

The Central Government have paid the non-recurring grant of Rs. 55,000/-.

(b) No.

(c) The regular session of the upgraded department is likely to start in July, 1953.

CALCUTTA PORT

***499. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state how far the congestion at the Calcutta Port has been relieved during the current year and also the progress made in the implementation of the plan for improvement of Calcutta Port?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There was some congestion in the Port of Calcutta during a period of about four months from middle of July to middle of November 1952, due to the rush of ships for cargoes of coal.

Port facilities at Calcutta are adequate for handling present traffic. Certain schemes of improvement estimated to cost approximately Rs. 72.35 lakhs are in progress. Further schemes estimated to cost Rs. 11.08 crores have been included in the Five Year Development Programme of the port.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the plan for the improvement of the port of Calcutta has been finalised, and if so whether the Man Singh Committee's recommendation for the implementation of this improvement work has been accepted by Government?

Shri Alagesan: The programme has been drawn up, and will be carried out as per the availability of finance during this five year period.

Dr. M. M. Das: My question was whether the recommendations of the Man Singh Committee have been accepted by Government. That is the information I want.

Shri Alagesan: The Port Authorities have drafted a programme, taking into consideration the requirements of the port for development, and the Man Singh Committee's recommendations, and the programme have been finalised. The money has to be allotted, and in the remaining three years' period of the Plan, there will be great progress.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Man Singh Committee's recommendations have been looked into, considered and acted upon in a way.

Shri K. K. Basu: What is the point of giving such a vague answer? The hon. Minister might have asked for notice instead.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has given more answers than are called for.

Shri K. K. Basu: But what is the point in giving such a vague answer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The way of answering is different for the different Ministers. That is all. Now so far as I am concerned, I have been able to follow the hon. Minister's answer. He said that the Man Singh Committee's report was sent to the Port Authorities, they considered these recommendations, and these recommendations have been accepted and included in the five year programme of development. What more is required? He has given more answer than was expected.

POSTAL DIRECTORY AND GUIDE

***500. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the number of new sub-Branch and village post-offices opened since 1950 (up-to-date)?

(b) Have the names of all such post offices been included in the latest Postal Directory and Guide and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Between the 1st April, 1950 and the 31st December, 1952, the number of new urban and rural post offices opened was 512 and 9,709, respectively.

(b) The names of all newly opened Post Offices have been included in the latest P. & T. Guide, which is under print. In addition to the Guide, the names and particulars of the newly opened Post Offices are published in a monthly circular.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the reasons why the quarterly list of post offices, which was being printed previously, has been suspended now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are published monthly.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are the Government aware of the fact that a very large number of letters are lost or reach the addressees late, due to the ignorance of the sorters about the existence and location of new post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was in order to overcome that difficulty, that we have begun publishing monthly lists.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know the reasons why many incorrect things are now visible in the present list of the post offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They may be brought to the notice of the hon. Minister.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that considerable difficulty is being experienced in sending telegrams, because there is no list maintained in post and telegraph offices about the other telegraph offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If the hon. Member has met with any difficulty, on that score, I shall be grateful to him if he could point out to me the name of that particular telegraph office.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such things the hon. Minister cannot carry with him. The hon. Member may kindly write to him.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It was not a question of personal difficulty. I was asking him whether in view of such difficulties...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no difficulties, according to him.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I can point out fifteen cases.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Let them be brought to his notice. I would urge once again upon hon. Members one point regarding this matter. It is not as if universally all telegraph codes have been removed once and for all. There are lists in some offices, and there may not be lists in some offices. Where there is no list, and for want of a list there is any difficulty, the hon. Member can write to the hon. Minister. Why should these be raised on the floor of the House? They may be Members of the Opposition, and these people may be Ministers, but so far as information is concerned, they can easily write to the hon. Ministers, and they are also trying their best to answer those questions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am sorry that you have misunderstood me. I was asking whether in view of such difficulties, every post and telegraph office has a list of the other post and telegraph offices?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Every telegraph office does not send telegrams to itself. I am not able to follow the question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that the directory is now in print. But before it is made available to the public, may I know whether every post office is equipped with a list of the other post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Ordinarily we do supply such lists to all concerned offices. In cases where this has not been done, I shall be grateful—once again I repeat my gratefulness to the hon. Member—if the hon. Member would kindly bring it to my notice.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह सूची किन किन भाषाओं में छापी जाती है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : सम्भवत : अंग्रेजी में छपती है ।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि इस देश में हिन्दी समझनें वाले ज्यादा हैं या अंग्रेजी भाषा समझनें वाले ज्यादा हैं ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. How can this be converted into a speech in favour of Hindi? I cannot follow.

Next question.

INDIAN COASTAL LIGHT DUES

*501. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the ceiling rate of Indian Coastal Light dues;

(b) if so, by what percentage it is likely to be increased; and

(c) what are the reasons for increasing these light dues?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The ceiling rate of lightdues prescribed under Section 10(1) of the Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927 as it stands at present is annas two per ton. It is proposed to amend this section to provide for a ceiling rate of annas four per ton and a Bill for this purpose has already been introduced in this House.

(c) The Central Lighthouse Department has a development programme which is estimated to cost about Rs. 2 crores up to the end of 1955-56. It is proposed to meet part of this expenditure by increasing the rate at which lightdues are now levied.

DEMANDS OF WORKING JOURNALISTS

*502. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of working journalists for Trade Union rights has been under the consideration of the Government of India; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to announce their decision in this respect?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The requirements of the Working Journalists will be given due consideration at the time of the drafting of the new Industrial Relations Bill.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that the working journalists are denied resort to the Industrial Tribunals, by the various State Governments?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certain cases of these journalists came before the Tribunals, and there are different kinds of decisions.

Shri Venkataraman: In view of the conflicting decisions in respect of the working journalists, as to whether they are governed by the definition of workman or not, what action do the Government propose to take to settle the controversy?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government are considering the matter.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May we know when the Industrial Relations Bill is likely to come up before this House?

Shri V. V. Giri: As early as possible.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government have collected any statistics regarding the number of working journalists working at present?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice. I have not got that with me, but we have to collect the information.

RICE AND WHEAT RESEARCH WORKERS' CONFERENCE (RECOMMENDATIONS)

***503. Shri Chinaria:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state how far the recommendations of the Rice and Wheat Research Workers' Conference endorsed by the joint meeting of the Research and Extension Boards held in July, 1951 have been implemented?

(b) How many scientists were or are being sent to the International Rice Conference of the F.A.O.?

(c) Have any drought resistant varieties of rice and wheat been or are being bred?

(d) If so, under what average annual rainfall can they grow successfully?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 14].

(b) During the first two sessions of the Conference one scientist was deputed; during the third session two scientists were deputed.

(c) Correctly speaking there is no drought resistant paddy, but there are strains of paddy which are early-maturing and can be grown in high-lying areas. Similarly wheats grown under dry conditions are early-maturing.

(d) Paddy (short-season or early-maturing) can be grown under rainfall of about 40 inches. Wheat can be grown in *barani* areas with a rainfall varying from about 18—25 inches.

Shri Chinaria: May I know whether the Government have tried to find out the minimum water requirements of drought-resistant plants, especially rice and wheat?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This matter is likely to be taken up for investigation, at the suggestion of the hon. Member.

DISTURBANCES AT VIJAYAWADA RAILWAY STATION

***504. Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what is the exact value of property looted on the 16th December, 1952 at Vijayawada Railway Station by the mob?

(b) What was the strength of Police Force stationed to guard the Railway Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The value of goods lost will be approximately Rs. 17 lakhs and the value of the goods recovered is estimated to be about Rs. 2 lakhs.

(b) The information is not available.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know how many persons responsible for this loot have been detected, and what amount of property has been recovered from them?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered part of the question. About Rs. 2 lakhs worth of property has been recovered. As to how many people were arrested etc., we do not have the information.

Shri Veeraswamy: How many persons have lost their lives in the disturbances?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Railways have nothing to do with them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister to whom the question is addressed is the Minister in charge of Railways.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that labourers have been forced to give away their rice and wheat in their houses, because the police made a search in their houses?

Shri Alagesan: Only the looted property was recovered. That is all our information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we are not entering into any argument as to whether it was looted or antecedent property. It is left for the investigators.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Have any railway employees been killed in this incident, and has any compensation been paid to their families?

Shri Alagesan: At Vijayawada, none.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any persons have complained that their property has been taken away by the railway authorities, even though they protested that they did not take part in this looting?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether any complaints have been received by the railway authorities, that the personal property—and not the stolen property—of some persons have been recovered from them.

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. We have no information.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the property includes not only Government property but also private persons' property?

Shri Alagesan: These are goods booked,—parcels and luggage.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know, Sir, who is to bear the balance of 15 lakhs?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a legal question.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

*505. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what was the total production of sugar in India in the season 1951-52 and what is the estimate of production this year?

(b) Is it a fact that crushing of canes started late this year and if so, what are the reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that smaller number of factories will work during the season of 1952-53 than in the last season?

(d) What is the percentage recovery of sugar from canes as expected this year, and how does it compare with last year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The total production of sugar in India in the season 1952-51 was 14·97 lakh tons. This year it is expected to be about 12 or 12·5 lakh tons.

(b) Yes. The main reason for late starting of the sugar factories this season is that the cane crop in areas of most of the factories was smaller. It was, therefore, not necessary for factories to start early to crush available cane. Further as recovery of sugar in the early part of the season is low, most of the factories delayed crushing in order to obtain higher average recovery.

(c) Yes.

(d) The average recovery of sugar on cane in India this year is expected to be about 9·9 per cent. as against 9:57 per cent. last year.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether the proportion of the decrease in the acreage under sugar cane cultivation has been in accordance with the decrease in production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): There has hardly been a reduction in acreage as the effect of reduction in cane price will be felt next year. The decrease in production is due to the disease in cane in some parts of the country.

Shri Gopala Rao: What are the reasons for the fall in production of sugar cane? While it was 14.97 lakh tons last year, this year it is estimated to be 12.5 lakh tons. Is it the progress of the Five Year Plan?

Shri Kidwai: No. It will still be more than what is aimed at in the Five Year Plan.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister has given figures of production. May I know, Sir, what is the installed capacity of production for sugar mills in India?

Shri Kidwai: At least what it was last year, but I think a lakh tons more.

श्री झुनझुनवाला : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि इस बार ईख कम हुई, ईख कम हुई इसलिये शुगर का प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ ? तो ईख कम क्यों हुई, एरिया तो बहुत बेशी था ?

श्री किदवई : कुछ जगहों पर इस साल ईख में बीमारी लग गई और उस की वजह से कम हुई, और बाज़ जगह तूफ़ान आए, जैसे ट्रावणकोर में, उस से भी ईख को नुकसान पहुंचा।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : यू० पी० में फसल कैसी है ?

श्री किदवई : यू० पी० में वैस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्टस की फ़सल खराब गई, चुनांचे वैस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट में कम होगी। ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्टस में बढ़ जायगी।

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the decrease in acreage this year is due to the fact that many growers have not yet been paid for the cane that was supplied last year?

Shri Kidwai: That is also not correct, because the effect of the last year's arrears on the sowing will be next year.

PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES FOR WORKERS

*506. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state what are the advantages of the localisation of operation of Provident Fund Schemes to workers?

(b) What are the conditions of localisation and to what industries has it been extended?

(c) What have been the results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme working in the coal mines?

(d) What industries and what percentage of workers are now being benefited by the Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the decentralisation of administration of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. Decentralisation makes for speedier disposal of provident fund business and promotes closer association of the employees with the administration of the Fund at all levels.

(b) The present policy is to allow liberal permission to factories to run their schemes subject to certain limitations and conditions. It is proposed to decentralise further the administration of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme after some experience is gained in its working in the six scheduled industries, namely, cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. A copy of the conditions of exemption is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 15].

The conditions of further decentralisation are still to be worked out.

(c) The results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme are:—

(i) it is having a stabilising effect on a labour force which was casual and mobile: and

(ii) it has brought some awareness among the workers of the advantages of thrift and provision for old age, and for dependents in the event of early death of a worker.

(d) About 90 per cent. of the employees working in cement, cigrettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textile industries are covered by the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952. In regard to coal mines, a worker who once earns a quarterly bonus, becomes a member of the Coal Mines Provident Fund. The total membership now is about six lakhs, including 'dead accounts', which shows that the percentage of members to the total number of workers must be very high, probably of the order of 80 per cent.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what is the ground on which certain employees are excluded from the advantages of this scheme, and what is the number of such employees?

Shri V. V. Giri: Employees are not excluded. Certain industries have been excluded, or at any rate, are not included. Under section 4, they can also be included provided the Government is of the opinion that they could be included.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In the statement that I have got, it is said: "Under the scheme, all employees, other than excluded employees, who have completed one year's.........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Employees are not excluded; industries are excluded.

Shri V. V. Giri: Employees who are getting more than Rs. 300.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the conditions under which the contribution of the employer is withdrawn in certain cases?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think those conditions are enumerated in the paper that I have placed on the Table of the House—deductions on account of dismissal for serious or wilful misconduct.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, Sir, whether there is any representative of the workers on the Board of Trustees?

Shri V. V. Giri: Of course.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, why the tanning and 'biri' industries have been excluded from this scheme?

Shri V. V. Giri: They will be included later.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether this Act is applied to all the cement factories in India, including those in the South?

Shri V. V. Giri: I suppose so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, Sir, the proportion of 'dead accounts' in the figure given by the hon. Minister and how that amount is being utilised?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is not returned to the employer. It is kept there for the purpose of knowing whether the man who represents the 'dead account' would come back for work. They are 'dead accounts' because the man is not found—not that he is dead.

Shri Venkataraman: Sir, is it a fact that the employee does not get the full employer's contribution under this scheme unless he has put in 20 years of service and as a result of this the employees do not get the benefit of the contribution of the employers? Has representation been made by the Trade Unions that the period fixed for getting the employer's contribution is long and that it should be reduced to five years? Has any decision been taken in respect of these representations?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certainly we will give due consideration to the representations.

Shri S. C. Deb: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme will be applicable to the tea industry?

Shri V. V. Giri: At the present moment it will not.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, in view of the fact that the employees do not get any contribution, unless they have put in 20 years, whether the Government have a machinery to ascertain the dismissal of the employees by such employers before 20 years?

Shri V. V. Giri: According to the Act, if a man has put in 20 years then alone he will get the full benefit of the Act.

CONDIMENT AND SPICES CROPS

***507. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Committee set up to examine the position of condiment and spices crops has begun its work and, if so, when is it likely to finish it and submit its report?

(b) Has the Committee examined the position as regards the growing of some of these crops in any places in Northern India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. The Committee has already toured all important producing centres in South India and is expected to submit its report shortly.

(b) No. It is not necessary to do so as all the six crops referred to the Committee are grown on a commercial scale in South India particularly in Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Coorg and Mysore.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know whether any experiments were made to see that any of those crops can be produced in other areas?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware of any such experiment.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know, Sir, whether turmeric is one of the crops within the purview of this Committee and, if so, whether this Committee has toured Andhra Desa where this is grown in a very large measure?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Turmeric is included, Sir; but the Committee does not appear to have toured the Andhra Desa. I can give the places and areas toured. The Committee visited Travancore-Cochin in April-May, 1952, Coorg and Mysore in December, 1952. In January, 1953, the Committee visited Madras and Malabar. I do not know if Madras means Andhra Desa also.

Shri Raghuramaiah: It does, Sir, including Madras city. May I know, Sir, considering the important nature of the crop and the number of people growing it and the enormous loss that has been incurred, whether the Government consider instructing the Committee to visit that place, and take evidence?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure, Sir, that competent members of the Committe will not forget such an important area and consideration as have been pointed out by my hon. friend.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether growers of these commodities are associated with the working of this Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are examined, Sir. I do not know whether they are associated. I have got the names of the members of the Committee and they are expected to make enquiries from growers. There is no grower as such excepting an *ex*-M.P., A. K. Menon, who represents the consumers and C. N. Alexander, who represents the Travancore-Cochin producers.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the terms of reference of this Committee and whether the question of high prices of spices and condiments is included in the terms of reference?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the main object with which the Committee was appointed was to make on-the-spot enquiries and to collect evidence regarding the problems of production and marketing of black pepper, ginger, garlic, cardamom, turmeric and lemon-grass.

EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR

*508. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount so far collected under the Sugar Excise Act, 1952; and

(b) the present price of sugar?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 2.4 lakhs as reported by Excise Collectors.

(b) The *ex*-factory price of the carry-over stocks of 1951-52 season is Rs. 27/- per maund in North India and Rs. 28/- per maund in South India. There is no price control on 1952-53 sugar but it is being quoted at Rs. 27/- to Rs. 29/8/- per maund *ex*-factory according to quality and location of the factory.

Shri K. K. Basu: Sir, could he give us the provincial distribution of such collection?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got these figures, Sir.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: What is the basis for the difference of prices between Northern India and Southern India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The basis of difference is the transport charges from North India to the South. South India does not produce sufficient sugar to suffice for that area. Therefore it has got the advantage of freight in the market.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the produce of sugar-cane per acre is greater in Southern India than in Northern India?

Shri Kidwai: In Bombay State the yield per acre is much higher than in Northern India and the recovery is also much higher than in Northern India. But in free competition they have got the advantage of freight because the sugar produced there is not sufficient and they have to compete with Northern India sugar. Therefore, sugar in South India is costlier than in the North.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: What is the basis of fixing the price of sugar?

Shri Kidwai: Nobody fixes the price; it is free market now.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I have now got the break-up of the figures, if my hon. friend wants it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, not necessary. That question is over.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether sugar produced in South Indian factories is often taken to Northern India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we competing with South India? Nobody complains that South Indian sugar is worse than North Indian sugar. What is the object of these questions? I would only ask hon. Members first of all to think what is the object of the question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not a fact Sir, that sugar made in Northern India is imported into South India and is it not because of that that the cost of production in South India is higher than in North India?

Shri Kidwai: In South India the cost of production is not high. They are getting rich profits because the sugar produced there is supplied locally and they are allowed to raise their prices, to the price of North Indian sugar plus railway freight.

ORANGE PLANTATIONS IN WYNAD, COORG AND NILGIRIS

***510. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large orange plantations in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris are affected by an unknown disease and becoming extinct;

(b) whether the crops in other parts of India are affected by this disease; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to arrest the menace?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. 'Decline' or 'Die-Back' of mandarin oranges is a serious problem in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris where deaths of trees have been occurring in large numbers.

(b) This disease also occurs in the Malnad areas of the Mysore State and a similar disease occurs in parts of Bombay and Hyderabad States.

(c) Investigations on the nature of the diseases and its control in Wynad were carried out (as a joint scheme of the Madras Government and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1948—51) and it was found that the disease was due to a lack of proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects and to faulty location of orchards. Proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects as well as adoption of control measures against other diseases and pests have been recommended as an overall measure to improve the mandarin orange industry in Wynad.

2. The I.C.A.R. has recently sanctioned a co-ordinated scheme for citrus die-back disease at a cost of Rs. 5,46,800/- for a period of 5 years with effect from 1-4-53 in view of the seriousness of this disease. Under this scheme a Central Station will be established at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to deal with the fundamental aspects of micro-element nutrition of plants, with two regional stations, one for Coorg and Wynad area and the other for Hyderabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. The regional stations will investigte the nature of citrus die-back disease under local conditions and the methods of controlling the disease.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS INDUSTRY

***511. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what are the steps taken and proposed to be taken for improving the agricultural implements industry?

(b) What are the recommendations of the three day conference of agricultural engineers in various States. and representatives of various firms manufacturing agricultural implements in the country which was held in the second week of January, 1953 at Delhi?

(c) Have any of the recommendations been found acceptable to Government?

(d) If so, what are the recommendations and what steps are being taken to implement them?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) So far as popularisation of improved agricultural implements are concerned, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned a scheme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 1,11,000/ for the manufacture of approved agricultural implements for distribution and demonstration in the States and the introduction of improved agricultural implements, from one part of the country to another.

The State Governments have also been informed that high priority to schemes for research in agricultural implements will be given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. As regards steps proposed, attention is invited to replies to parts (b). (c) and of the question.

(b) to (d). A statement giving briefly the recommendations of the Conference and action taken thereon is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 16.] The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has accepted all the recommendations which will be implemented to the extent funds become available.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

Shri S. N. Das: (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the influenza epidemic that swept England, France and other European countries is spreading towards East, has reached upto Egypt and is likely to come to India also?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what precautionary measures have been adopted by Government to prevent the spread of this epidemic in India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) According to the latest epidemiological reports received from the W.H.O., the influenza epidemic is not prevalent in North Africa but a mild outbreak of influenza has been reported from the western towns of Turkey.

(b) All State Governments and Central Port and Airport Health Organisations have been warned of the likelihood of the spread of influenza to India and have been advised to take such measures as they can if and when circumstances require action.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know in what respect this influenza epidemic which is advancing towards the East differs from the influenza epidemic from which some people in India generally suffer?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is difficult for me to say what form the epidemic in Europe has taken. Probably, some of the forms are already prevalent in India.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the intensity of this advancing epidemic is increasing or decreasing as it moves towards the East?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that it is not really moving to the East in any alarming measure. As far as I can tell from the most recent information, it is even subsiding in Europe.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why not allow the epidemic to cease? There is no danger of its coming here, unless it be that some hon. Members are terrified by the possibility.

Next Short Notice Question.

FOOD SCARCITY IN RAJASTHAN

Shri G. D. Somani: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acute food scarcity prevails in several parts of Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer Divisions of the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what steps have been or are being taken to meet the situation;

(c) what special aid has been sanctioned by the Central Government to supplement the efforts of the Government of Rajasthan to afford relief to the scarcity areas; and

(d) what other measures Government propose to take to meet the short-term and long-term requirements of these regions suffering from chronic scarcity conditions?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Scarcity conditions are prevailing in parts of the Divisions of Bikaner, Jodhpur and Udaipur in Rajasthan.

(b) The State Government are taking the following measures for the relief of distress:

(i) Relief works through revenue agency which consist of construction of Pucca wells and Kutcha tanks for storage of water for drinking purposes.

(ii) Arrangements to provide drinking water.

(iii) Conservation of Cattle.

(iv) Gratuitous relief to the disabled and infirm people.

(v) Metal breaking.

(vi) Construction of roads by P.W.D.

(vii) Taccavi advances.

(c) A ways and means advance of Rs. 1·5 crores has been sanctioned which contains an element of assistance towards famine relief. In addition the Government of India have agreed to render assistance to Rajasthan in accordance with the following formula:

> (i) A grant equal to 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure on gratuitous relief. (Expenditure on transport of water for drinking purposes, non-recoverable expenditure on cattle feeding and cattle preservation would also qualify for such grants).
>
> (ii) A loan to the extent of 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure on unproductive works; expenditure on the digging or deepening of wells and tanks intended purely for drinking water purposes (and not for irrigation) will fall in this capacity. Any works which are capable of yielding revenue will be treated as "productive works".

(d) A proposal to send a team of officers to Rajasthan to study the position on the spot and to recommend suitable measures for providing relief on a permanent or semi-permanent basis is under consideration.

Shri G. D. Somani: Is there any truth in certain press reports that there have been starvation deaths in some parts of Rajasthan?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not to our knowledge. I can say there has been none.

Shri G. D. Somani: What is the reason for investment in unproductive channels being debarred from the grant proposed to be given to the Government of Rajasthan as explained by the hon. Minister in his reply?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What I have stated are emergency measures, and if it is a long-term project like an irrigation project, it will have to come in for investigation by the Committee which it is under our consideration to appoint.

Shri Kasliwal: Is it proposed to open fodder depots also in this area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If circumstances demand it, the State Government will do so, and they will be entitled to receive some grant from the Central Government.

Shri T. N. Singh: There is a report in the papers today that there is an influx of certain parties from Pakistan owing to famine conditions near about the Rajasthan area. May I know if that is true, and if so, whether the influx is due to famine conditions in Rajasthan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): This question is about famine in Rajasthan. We are not concerned with whether there is any influx from Pakistan or not.

** ** ** **

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में अकाल पड़ रहा है क्या उन को फैमिन एरिया डिक्लेअर कर दिया गया है ?

श्री किदवई : राजस्थान गवर्नमेन्ट जो मुनासिब समझ रही है कर रही है, हम से जो मदद मांगेंगे और वह हमारे अख्त्यार में होगा तो हम देंगे ।

Shri Morarka: May I know how many people are affected by this scarcity?

Shri Kidwai: We have not yet received any detailed report from Rajasthan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOCUST INVASION

*479. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether India is free of any locust invasion threats from any side this year?

(b) What precautions are being taken just at present for prevention of any invasion?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No. In view of heavy infestation in the desert breeding belt in the Middle East, particularly in Iran, a serious locust invasion is apprehended.

(b) We can do little in India to prevent invasion of swarms from India. Many of the countries to the West of us, from where these swarms come, have set up anti-locust organisations and we ourselves have recently sent help to Iran to assist that country in destroying this source of danger. A statement, showing our own arrangements for destroying locusts and hoppers is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 17.]

SENIORITY COMMITTEES

*482. **Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which Seniority Committees, if any, were appointed on each Railway in respect of Class III and IV staff;

(b) whether any Seniority Committee has completed its report on any Railway; and

(c) whether all confirmations have been suspended pending the completion of the work of these Seniority Committees?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)

Name of the Committee	*Date of appointment*
Southern Railway Seniority Committee	28-9-1951
Western Railway Seniority Committee	2-1-1952
Central Railway Seniority Committee	17-2-1952
Eastern Railway Seniority Committee	2-6-1952
Northern Railway Seniority Committee	16-7-1952
North-Eastern Railway Seniority Committee	19-7-1952

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair—Ed. of P. P.

(b) Yes, four Committees have submitted their reports regarding the principles to be adopted for combining the seniority of the staff of the integrating units.

(c) No specific ban has been placed on confirmations but in certain categories the pace of confirmations has slowed down.

IMPORT OF WHEAT FROM U.S.A.

***483. Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the present rate at which the Government of India are purchasing wheat in the U.S.A.?

(b) What were the prices at which Government purchased wheat during the last three years and how much quantity was purchased during the same period?

(c) What was the freight paid to the shipping companies and how much was paid to Indian companies?

(d) How much premium was paid to the Insurance companies for covering the risk and what sum was paid to the Indian companies?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Purchases of wheat from U.S.A. are now being made under the International Wheat Agreement only at rates varying between $ 1·84 and 1·87 per bushel.

(b) The quantity of wheat purchased from U.S.A. during the last three years and the prices paid were as under:—

Year	Quantity purchased ('000 tons)	prices paid per bushel of 60 lbs.
1950	224·5	$ 1·69 to 1·90
1951	2424·1	$ 1·79 to 2·65
1952	1235·8	$ 1·83 to 2.90

(c) The freight paid on the quantity received in India during the three years 1950, 1951 and 1952 was Rs. 4086·2 lakhs. Of this Rs. 72·4 lakhs were paid to Indian Companies.

(d) Cargoes of wheat shipped from U.S.A. were not insured.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF RATION FOR TEA PLANTATION WORKERS

***486. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have increased the price of ration for the Tea Plantation workers of Darjeeling from Rs. 8/- to Rs. 17-8/- per maund: and

(b) whether it is a fact that this step of the Government of West Bengal has been taken notwithstanding the agreement by the Tea Garden owners with the Tripartite Conference Resolution demand that no reduction in the earnings of the workers should take place pending the report of a Tripartite Commission?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) On the basis of an interim report of the Minimum Wages Tea Plantations Advisory Committee, the Government of West Bengal have allowed planters in hill areas of Darjeeling to supply rationed foodgrains to workers @ Rs. 17-8-0 per maund instead of Rs. 8/- per maund for a period of two months with effect from the 1st January, 1953, on condition that gardens supplying foodgrains at the higher rate shall not close, nor retrench any existing employee or offer employment for less than six days a week during the said period. This step has been taken purely as a temporary measure to avert closure of more gardens.

(b) The agreement of planters that there would be no reduction in the earnings of workers was subject to the grant of relief to tea gardens by way of refund of excise duty etc., which was not accepted by the Central Government.

LOADINGS OF SUGAR-CANE AND *Gur*

***487. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from the Cane growers of the Jullundar District. regarding insufficient arrangements for loading sugar-cane and *gur* during the current crushing season: and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There have been hardly any complaints in respect of supply of wagons for loading of sugarcane which has been on the whole satisfactory.

Generally during the crushing season, special steps are taken to augment the wagon supply to meet the requirements of sugar mills.

Complaints have, however, been received from various quarters regarding movement of *Gur*. This is so because *Gur* is not treated as preferential traffic and has, therefore to share along with other non-preferential traffic the wagon availability after meeting the essential demands of preferential traffic.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise in respect of sugar-cane traffic. As regards *Gur*, as and when feasible, consistent with the other demands, maximum possible transport is made available. The traffic cleared during the current season has recorded a substantial increase over that moved during the corresponding period of the last season.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY LABOUR UNION (RESOLUTIONS)

***488. Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the Railway authorities have received the Resolutions passed and communicated by the Southern Railway Labour Union at its 13th annual conference held at Golden Rock?

(b) What action has been taken on the general and departmental grievances of Railwaymen enumerated therein?

(c) What is the total number of Resolutions so received and what action has been taken thereon?

(d) Are communications sent to the Labour Union as and when actions are taken on the various Resolutions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A copy of the resolutions, referred to, has been received along with various letters dated the 2nd, 3rd and 11th October, 1952 addressed by the hon. Member in his capacity as the General Secretary of the Southern Railway Labour Union, to the Minister for Transport and Railways.

(b) to (d). No action was taken as our general policy is to deal formally, only with recognised Unions. As for the first part of (c), I may add that a large number of resolutions has been received along with the letters referred to in the reply to part (a).

COLLIERY WORKERS (HOLIDAYS)

***493. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether the Management of the collieries have accepted the recommendations of the Collieries Labour Enquiry Committee with regard to the grant of ten days leave with pay to the workers in collieries?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): It is not clear to which Collieries Labour Enquiry Committee reference is intended. If the reference is to the Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. G. Jadhav set up by the Hyderabad Government, information is not available but will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

RAILWAY COLLISION AT LUDHIANA

***509. Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a collision between the engines at Ludhiana on or about the 3rd February, 1953;

(b) if so, the circumstances of the same;

(c) the estimated amount of loss incurred in this collision; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such collisions in future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). At about 24 hours on 3rd February, 1953, a fireman passed Shunter at Ludhiana who was on leave got on to the incoming engine of train No. 6 LF standing on the examining pit in Loco Shed, Ludhiana, and worked it to the Traffic yard where it collided with a shunting engine standing near the water column, resulting in the derailment of the shunting engine and one ash truck which was also standing on the same line.

(c) Approximately Rs. 4,500/-.

(d) An Assistant Officers' Joint Enquiry has been held to enquire into this accident and necessary action will be taken on their findings.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

***512. Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the active member States of the W.H.O.;

(b) what is India's financial contribution towards the W.H.O. for the year 1953; and

(c) what are the health programmes now under way in India for the year 1953 under the direction of the W.H.O. Regional Office for India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (c). Two statements are placed on the Table of the

House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 18.]

(b) India has been assessed at U.S. dollars 273,055 (Rs. 12,99,742 App:) for 1953.

TUNDLA-ETAH RAILWAY LINE

***513. Ch. Raghubir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to **state** whether Government propose to construct a new railway line **from** Tundla to Etah (U.P.)?

(b) If so, what preliminary steps **have** Government taken in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). It is proposed to undertake **a** survey for this project during 1953-54 with a view to deciding upon its construction after determining the most suitable alignment from financial, operating and public points of view.

MALARIA CONTROL PLAN

***514. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state.

(a) whether Malaria Control Plan launched by the Government of India in collaboration with the Technical Co-operation Administration Programme has been extended to all States;

(b) if so, the number of units working in each State;

(c) the total amount allotted from the Indo-American funds to the State of U.P.; and

(d) the number of free supplies of D.D.T. vehicles and equipment contributed by the Centre to Uttar Pradesh?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes, except Rajasthan, which has not agreed to participate in the Scheme on account of financial stringency.

(b) As stated in my reply to Starred Question No. 365 dated the 26th February, 1953, 75 units will be established in 1953-54 and 50 more units in 1954-55 under the Scheme. A statement showing the allocation of the 75 units in 1953-54 to the various States is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The total assistance to be given to the Central Government for the various States for the year 1953-54 by the Technical Co-operation Administration, which will be in the form of D.D.T., vehicles and equipment, is valued at $ 5·2 million of which Uttar Pradesh's share is expected to be about $ 0·35 million.

(d) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [For (b) and (d), *See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 19]

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN MADHYA BHARAT

***515. Shri R. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of telegraph offices in Madhya Bharat before its financial integration with the Centre;

(b) how many new telegraph offices have been opened after the date of integration; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to provide every municipal town with a telegraph office?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Seventy.

(b) Thirteen.

(c) No. The feasibility of providing telegraph facilities to a few more towns in Madhya Bharat is being examined.

OPERATIONAL AREA ALLOWANCE

***516. Maulana Masuodi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (c) of unstarred Question No. 659 regarding Operational Area Allowance to the Posts and Telegraphs employees, asked on the 15th December, 1952 and state what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The whole question pertaining to the operation area allowance to all Central Government Employees in Jammu and Kashmir State is under review. A decision is likely to be taken very soon.

JAIPUR RAILWAY STATION

364. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provisions have been made or are proposed to be made for the improvement of Jaipur Railway Station;

(b) whether Government have received any scheme for the development of Jaipur Railway Station from the Manager of the Western Railway Zone; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the amount proposed to be spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes; the work has been provided in the Budget for 1953-54.

(b) Yes. Detailed plans and estimate are, however, still awaited from the Western Railway.

(c) Of the anticipated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs is proposed to be spent during 1953-54.

UNSERVICEABLE WAGONS

365. Shri G. D. Somani: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many old unserviceable wagons are lying idle in the various Railway Workshops?

(b) Is it a fact that most of these old goods wagons have gone below the minimum standards required under the Railway regulations?

(c) What is the total number of such goods wagons on each Railway and since what period are they lying idle?

(d) What efforts are being made by the Railways to dispose them off and what is the total estimated value of such rolling stocks?

(e) What is the approximate average scrap value realised in the past from each goods wagon of a Metre Gauge and a Broad Gauge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information is being collected from Railways and a reply will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

UNSERVICEABLE LOCOMOTIVES

366. Shri G. D. Somani: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some unserviceable locomotives of Metre Gauge are waiting to be scrapped and if so, what is the total number and what is the scrap value expected to be realised of each such locomotive?

(b) Is it a fact that in the past old unserviceable locomotives have been sold on their dead weight value of scrap?

(c) Do the Railways insist that before selling, such wagons and locomotives must be broken into pieces, so that no possible use may be made in the country for internal use either in factories or mines?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. There are 54 condemned Metre Gauge locos, which it is intended to break up in the near future. The approximate scrap value is expected to be about Rs. 5,000 each, after all useful parts have been reclaimed.

(b) Yes. But after reclaiming all useful parts.

(c) No. Some locos and wagons, no longer fit for railway use have been sold to private parties.

TERMINAL CHARGES

367. Shri G. D. Somani: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what are the total earnings from Terminal Charges annually in each year since the Terminal Charges were standardized and what were the earnings from Terminal Charges in the last three years preceding the standardisation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Terminal charges are included in the total freight rates and as such, the compilation of this information is not easily practicable and will also involve a considerable amount of labour and expenditure.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO WEST BENGAL

368. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of rice supplied to West Bengal during the year 1952 for meeting its rationing commitments as well as for sale from the fair price shops;

(b) the total quantity of wheat supplied during the year 1952 for the rationed areas;

(c) the total quantity of rice and wheat supplied for gratuitous relief and for sale at a concession rate in the distressed areas; and

(d) the quantities supplied from the imported rice and from the indigenous sources and the respective prices thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (d).

During 1952, a total quantity of 156,300 tons of rice was allotted as under:

	(in '000 tons)
Overseas rice	100.9
Orissa ...	47.3
U.P. ...	8.1
	156.3

Regarding price, attention is invited to the reply given by me to part **(b)** of the starred question No. 65 asked by the hon. Member on 6-11-52.

(b) 572,600 tons of wheat was allotted for meeting the entire requirements of the State including those of the rationed areas.

(c) No separate allotments of rice and wheat for gratuitous relief and for sale at concessional rate in the distressed areas were arranged by the Centre. West Bengal Government have reported that during 1952 they have issued about 39,000 tons of rice and 59,600 tons of wheat and wheat products at concessional rates. Information regarding quantities issued for gratuitous relief is awaited.

RURAL AREAS (SANITATION)

369. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the steps which Government are taking under the First Five Year Plan for providing medical help to improve the sanitation of the rural population of the country?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MEDICAL TRAINING IN AYURVEDIC-*cum* ALLOPATHIC-*cum*-SURGERY

370. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical students who are receiving medical training in Ayurvedic-*cum*-Allopathic-*cum*-Surgery every year;

(b) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement containing a list of Institutions imparting medical training of the above nature, giving in each case the assistance or grant given by Government;

(c) whether the scales of pay of the Medical Graduates of such Universities and Institutes are the same as those of other Medical Graduates;

(d) if not, why not; and

(e) whether any other steps Government are taking to popularise the above stated system of medicine to make them cheap?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

ALL-INDIA TOWN REFUSE COMPOST SCHEME

371. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state when the All-India Town Refuse Compost Scheme was first launched and how it is working?

(b) What are the difficulties that the scheme had to face and how they have been averted?

(c) Has any specific remedy been found out to control the fly-breeding in the utilisation of human and animal excreta etc.?

(d) If so, is it costly?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Government of India introduced the Town Refuse Compost Scheme on an all India scale as a part of the Grow More Food Campaign in August 1945 and agreed to give financial and technical assistance to State Governments for increasing the production and distribution of compost manure in urban areas. The Scheme has shown steady progress from year to year as will be seen from a statement which has been laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Rapid development of compost work has been rendered difficult for the following reasons:

(1) delay in the acquisition of land for digging compost pits;

(2) transport difficulties;

(3) absence of a suitable sieve; and

(4) absence of satisfactory data for assessing extra production from the use of compost manure.

These difficulties are being overcome by such measures as (1) legislation for the expeditious acquisition of land for compost work (2) financial assistance for the purchase of motor trucks (3) development of a suitable sieve and (4) manurial trials in the States.

(c) Yes.

(d) The methods recommended are not costly. The expenditure is estimated at about 2 to 4 annas per ton of compost prepared

STATEMENT

Development of Town Refuse Compost Scheme

Serial No.	Year	No. of Urban Centres preparing compost	Quantity of compost	
			Produced	Distributed
			in tons	in tons
1	1945-46	411	2,82,670	1,79,910
2	1946-47	578	4,09,360	2,89,170
3	1947-48	563	4,86,080	3,80,527
4	1948-49	686	7,19,556	5,57,385
5	1949-50	1033	12,09,084	9,23,175
6	1950-51	1048	14,03,761	10,63,913
7	1951-52	1693	16,94,104	12,53,351

DELHI MILK SUPPLY SCHEME

372. Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the proposal for setting up a suitable dairy for pasteurising the milk and for providing cold storage facilities for "Delhi Milk Supply" has been sanctioned by Government?

(b) What is the quantity of milk handled daily under the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) About 120 Maunds per day.

ERNAKULAM-QUILON RAILWAY LINE

373. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the survey and laying of the Railway line from Earnakulam to Quilon in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) the strength of local labour employed in the above railway project so far and the rates of wages paid to them, according to the categories of labour so employed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Final Location Survey has been completed for a length of 58 miles out of a total of 96.26 miles. Earthwork has been started in section, Ernakulam to Kottayam and 6 lakhs Cft. has been done so far against a total requirement of 715 lakhs for this section.

(b) At present there are about 1200 local labour working and the wages paid are as under:

(i) Departmental labour Rs. 45/- p.m. consolidated.

(ii) Contractor's coolies—Wages vary from Rs. 1-12-0 to 2-4-0 for male coolies, and Re. 1/- to 1-4-0 for female coolies, per day.

EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S WELFARE FUND

374. Shri Frank Anthony: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the *Ex*-Service Women's Welfare Fund was constituted from a donation from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund;

(b) the purpose of this;

(c) the balance of money now lying at the disposal of this Fund;

(d) the total number of applications received for assistance from this Fund; and

(e) the actual number of applicants who received such help?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The scope of the Fund was originally to provide *extra* amenities for ex-members of W A C (I) undergoing post-release training for resettlement in civil life. After the termination of various training schemes, the scope of the Fund was enlarged and financial assistance is now available to ex-service-women for—

(i) higher eduction or training;

(ii) setting up business or self employing occupations by providing small amount of working capital, raw materials, tools, etc;

(iii) (being in distress or destitution), providing minimum expenses required towards boarding, charges, clothing, train fares etc. This assistance is given for a very limited period.

The scope of the Fund has recently been further enlarged to cover the children of auxiliaries who are eligible for assistance for the same purposes as ex-service-women themselves may be eligible.

(c) Rs 1,50,000 with the Central Allotment Committee. Regional Committees have also a further balance of Rs. 65,969 for disbursements.

(d) The number of applications for financial assistance since the scope of the Fund was enlarged in 1948 is 2,442.

(e) 1,075. This number includes 239 auxiliaries for whom assistance has been sanctioned but actually payment has not been made.

STAFF QUARTERS (REPAIRS)

375. Shri Frank Anthony: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the repairs of staff quarters in Delhi and New Delhi for the year 1952-53;

(b) how much of this was earmarked for officers quarters and how much for non-gazetted staff; and

(c) the amount actually spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 1,80,000/-.

(b) No specific amounts are earmarked for repairs to quarters of officers and non-gazetted staff, and no separate accounts are maintained.

(c) Rs. 1,40,000/- were spent upto end of January 1953.

ORY

376. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state when the Perambur Coach Factory will manufacture the required number of 350 unfurnished all-metal light weight integrated types of coaches in a year?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The factory is expected to produce 350 unfurnished coaches in about four years but this is dependent on the receipt in time of specialised machinery and equipment from abroad.

RAJPUTANA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

377. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Science in New Delhi has suggested to the Central Government to set up a Rajputana Development Corporation for the arrest of the desert and development of that area?

(b) Have Government considered the recommendations of the Institute?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Government have asked the Institute to submit a detailed scheme.

EXTENSION OF PLATFORMS AT CHURCH GATE STATION

378. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to extend the existing platforms at Church Gate Station in the direction of Marine Lines in Bombay?

(b) If so, when will the proposal be given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matter is under investigation and it is hoped to consider the proposal in the Works Programme for 1954-55.

GRANT ROAD STATION

379. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there is any plan to provide another platform at Grant Road Station?

(b) If so, when will the plan be carried out?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matter is under investigation and it is hoped to consider the proposal in the Works Programme for 1954-55.

ELECTRIFICATION OF TRACKS BETWEEN BANDRA AND BORIVILI

380. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state when the two additional tracks between Bandra and Borivili laid and completed some years ago, will be electrified and brought into use?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Electrification of two additional tracks between Bandra to Andhori and Andhori to Borivili is expected to be completed by the end of March 1953 and March 1954 respectively. The sections will be brought into operation soon after completion.

LIGHTHOUSES AND FOG SIGNALS

381. Shri Raghavaiah: Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Lighthouses and Fog Signals in India;

(b) the number which are electrified and gas lighted respectively:

(c) the number which are installed with radio beacon; and

(d) the plan for installing electric and radio beacons in the Lighthouses during the year 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The total number of Lighthouses in India, including lightvessels, fog signals, buoys beacons or other marks exhibited or used for the guidance of ships, is 1703. The number of fog signals is four.

(b) Three of the lighthouses are electrified and 216 are gas lighted.

(c) At present only two of the lighthouses have radio beacons.

(d) During 1953-54 two radio beacons are proposed to be installed, one at False Point in Orissa and the other at Cochin, and eight lighthouses are propsed to be electrified at Arnala Bhatkal False point, Dolphin's Nose (Visakhapatnam), Puri, Dwaraka, Alleppey and Quilon. It is also proposed during the year to improve the existing electric lights at Okha and Mangrol with more powerful electrical apperata.

LOCOMOTIVES

382. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of broad and metre gauge Railway Engines required for the Indian Railways for the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) what proportion of this is expected to be met in India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Indian Railways' requirements of engines, provided for in 1952-53 and 1953-54 Rolling Stock Programmes are:

	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge.
1952-53	154	160
1953-54	120	110

(b) Of these 157 Broad Gauge and 100 Metre Gauge locomotives have already been ordered with manufacturers in India. Another 50 Metre Gauge locomotives are also proposed to be ordered in the country.

JET AIRCRAFT AND PAVEMENTS

383. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jet aircraft operation injures the pavements of Aerodrome through the effects of blasting heat and spillage of jet fuel; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to avoid the damage?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Operations of jet transport aircraft employed by the British Overseas Airways Corporation, the only foreign airline using this type of aircraft, through India have not been found so far to injure the pavement of aerodrome through the effect of blasting heat and spillage of jet fuel.

(b) Does not arise.

COAL FOR RAILWAYS

384. Shri N. P. Sinha: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what is the procedure of checking the quality and quantity of coal the Railways buy from the Collieries?

(b) Have Government received reports that the Collieries have in the past supplied inferior quality of coal and less in quantity than that agreed upon?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) *Quality.* Supplies of coal to railways are inspected before despatch by the Inspection Organisation under the Coal Commissioner, who is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Production.

Quantity. All coal wagons are weighed at the railway overbridges before despatch and a percentage of these wagons are, as a test-check, re-weighed at destination also. The differences in the invoiced weight and the actual receipts are found to be very minor, ranging from 0:1 per cent. to 0:9 per cent. on different railways.

(b) Yes, mainly regarding quality.

(c) The Collieries resorting to loading of coal below the specified standard are being penalised.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH

385. Shri S. N. Das: (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state what are the important recommendations so far made by the Central Council of Health?

(b) Which of these recommendations have been accepted by the Committee and have been given effect to?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to my reply to Unstarred Question **No.** 225 dated the 23rd February, 1953.

(b) The hon. Member presumably means 'Government' when he refers to 'Committee'. Most of the recommendations made by the Central Council of Health are for the State Governments to give effect to. Those recommendations which concern the Central Government are under consideration.

KHANDWA INGOLI RAILWAY LINE

386. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new Railway line from Khandwa to Ingoli has been sanctioned for construction?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what time will it take to begin an earth-work on the said railway lme?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). It is proposed to take the work in hand in 1953-54. It is not possible to say at present when earth-work will actually be commenced.

RAILWAY COACHES

387. Shri Kasliwal: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what is the total number of new upper class coaches placed on service in 1952?

(b) On what lines have they been placed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 119.

(b) Central Railway	25
Eastern Railway	38
Northern Railway	2
North Eastern Railway	13
Southern Railway	22
Western Railway	19
	119

CROP COMPETITIONS

388. Shri Chinaria: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the crop competitions, giving numbers of the competitors during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 and of prize winners;

(b) the crops competed;

(c) whether the crop competitions were on all-India or State basis; and

(d) how many competitors took part from PEPSU, and whether any of them got any prize?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) In 1949-50 when crop competitions were organised on an all-India basis four States participated. The number of competitors was 18,870 and the area under competition 31,563 acres. In 1951-52 twenty-two States participated. The number of competitors was 1,71,068 and the area under competition 1,21,636 acres. in 1949-50 three farmers received all-India prizes and a Certificate of '*Krishi Pandit*'. In 1951-52 six farmers were awarded all-India prizes and the Certificate of '*Krishi Pandit*'. The results of 1952-53 competitions have not yet come in and the all-India awards will be announced only in December. Information about the number of winners of prizes given by States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The crops selected for competition in 1949-50 are wheat, paddy and potatoes and those in 1951-52 are wheat, Paddy, potatoes, *jowar*, *bajra* and gram.

(c) The State Governments organise the crop competitions in accordance with a model scheme circulated by the Centre. The State Government award prizes to winners at State, District, Tehsil and village levels. The

Centre awards six all-India prizes and a Certificate of '*Krishi Pandit*' to the competitors who get the highest yield in each of the six selected crops.

(d) 3713. In 1951-52 none from PEPSU was awarded any all-India prize but 75 persons had won State prizes.

JOURNALS ON AGRICULTURE

389. Shri Chinaria: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state how many journals are being issued by Government on agriculture and allied subjects with the names and language of each and the places of issue?

(b) How many copies of each issue are issued?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A detailed statement providing the requisite information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 20]

RAINFALL IN SOUTH INDIA

390. Dr. Rama Rao: (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the Meteorological Department has recently undertaken a study of the failure of rainfall in South India?

(b) What were the results of the study?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, with reference to the rainfall in Madras State.

(b) The study shows that the continued failure of rain in some areas of Madras State in the months of October to December during the last five years is not associated with any permanent change in the climate. Such drought conditions are not unprecedented and have occurred in the past, *e.g.* during the years 1828 to 1835 and 1872-1876. They can only be explained as manifestations of the changeable character of natural weather for which no causes can yet be assigned.

COASTAL AND OVERSEAS SHIPPING TRADE

391. Dr. Lanka Sundaram: (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state what is the total amount of cargo and total number of passengers carried by the Coastal Shipping Trade of India and what is the total amount of freight and the total amount of passage money earned on the same during the year 1952?

(b) What is the total quantity of cargo and what is the total number of passengers carried during 1952 by the Overseas Shipping Trade of India and what is the total amount of freight and what is the total amount of passage money earned thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The figures of cargo and passengers carried during 1952 are given below:

Cargo—24·66 lakhs tons approximately.

Passengers—12:28 lakhs approximately.

No information is available about the total amount of freight and passage money earned in the Coastal Trade of India but it is understood that the total amount of freight and passage money earned by Indian ships in the coastal trade including trades with Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma during 1951-52 were of the following order.

Freight	...Rs. 9:32 crores.
Passage money ...	Rs. 0:34 crores.

(b) Figures are available only of the tonnage of ships which entered and cleared at Indian ports and that too for the financial years. The figures relating to 1951-52 are given below:

Entered	9,412,142 N.R.T.
Cleared	7,486.418 N.R.T.

No information is available of the total freight and passage money earned by foreign ships engaged in the overseas trade of India but those earned by Indian shipping companies during 1951-52 are indicated below:

Freight	... Rs. 9·32 crores.
Passage Money	... Rs. 0·34 crores.

INDIAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

392. Dr. Rama Rao: Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants have been made by any foreign charitable institution to the Indian Cancer Research Centre; and

(b) if so, how much has been granted, by whom and for what purpose?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). No grants have been made by any foreign charitable institution to the Indian Cancer Research Centre proper. The Rockefeller Foundation have, however, sponsored a Laboratory for the Study of Human Variation at the Indian Cancer

Research Centre, by a grant of U.S. $ 9,500 for the purchase of equipment and Rs. 65,000 for the operation of the Laboratory for a period of three years. The purpose of this Laboratory is to study Human Blood groups and other genetical traits with special reference to hereditary diseases and other defects in endogamous groups of people.

INDO-AMERICAN AGREEMENT RELIEF COUNCIL

393. Dr. Rama Rao: (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state when was the Indo-American Agreement Relief Council set up?

(b) Who are the personnel of the Council?

(c) What gifts have so far been presented to various medical institutions in India by this Council?

(d) What was the amount collected by Customs on these gifts?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). The Council is a private organisation set up on the 15th December, 1951 by the parties concerned. Its name has since been changed to "Council of Voluntary Agencies". The following are the existing personnel of the Council:

(i) Mr. E. St. John Catchpool, Representative of Friends Service Unit.

(ii) Rev. Donald E. Rugh, Representative of the National Christian Council Famine and Relief Committee.

(iii) Mr. Fred Devine, Representative of the CARE Headquarters in India.

(iv) Very Rev. Paul F. Smith, Representative of the Catholic Relief and Welfare Committee.

(v) Rev. S. M. King, Representative of the Mennonite Relief Committee.

(c) So far as Government are aware gifts coming under the Indo-American Relief Agreement are distributed by receiving agencies recognised under the Agreement. Government have no information as to whether the Council has any hand in the matter of distribution. The gifts presented to medical institutions by receiving agencies under the Indo-American Relief Agreement comprise of drugs and medicines, food-stuffs and 'hospital equipment and supplies. Full particulars of these gifts cannot be supplied as it would involve too much time and labour to collect them.

(d) The gifts which confirm to the terms of the Indo-American Relief Agreement are exempt from customs duty.

INVENTIONS OF MISTRI MANSA RAM

394. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mistri Mansa Ram, a technician of the Northern Railway Workshop at Kalka has invented a Horizontal Band Saw and several other processes;

(b) in whose names were these inventions patented; and

(c) how much this technician was paid for these inventions and how much more will he be paid for the purchase of these inventions and its patent rights from him by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. Shri Mansa Ram, a Mistry employed in the Northern Railway workshops at Kalka, fabricated a Horizontal Band Saw and also improvised certain other machines in the Workshops to suit the specific requirements of the workshop in the normal course of his duties.

(b) Since these machines and gadgets fabricated or improved by Shri Mansa Ram were done in the railway workshops the question of "patenting inventions" does not arise

(c) The General Manager, Northern Railway has awarded Shri Mansa Ram a sum of Rs. 500/- for the initiative and high skill displayed by him.

उत्तर प्रदेश में रेलवे की भूमि से लगान

३९५. स्वामी रामानन्द शास्त्री : क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश में रेलवे की भूमि से १९४९ से लेकर आज तक कुल कितना लगान इकट्ठा किया गया है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Complete information relating to land revenue collected from Railway lands in Uttar Pradesh since 1949 is not available at present. A reference is being made to the Civil Authorities and the information will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

DEVELOPMENT OF BANANA

396. **Shri B. N. Roy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under consideration for the development of Banana?

(b) If so, has any area been selected for the same in U.P. specially in the Tarai of that State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned a coordinated scheme for research on banana with a Central Station in Madras and two Regional Stations—one in Bombay and the other in West Bengal.

(b) No.

KEY VILLAGE SCHEME

397. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what is the number of centres started under the Key Village Scheme in each State, in the year 1952-53?

(b) What is the estimated cost of the scheme?

(c) How much has been spent on key village schemes in each State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IV, annexure No. 21]

(b) The estimated cost of the Scheme, in so far as the Central Government is concerned, is Rs. 293.53 lakhs for the period 1952-53 to 1955-56.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE JOINING KARWAR, BELEGAUM AND RAICHUR DISTRICTS

398. **Shri Sivamurthi Swami:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any survey has so far been made to construct a new Railway line joining Karwar, Belegaum and Raichur Districts through main towns?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to construct the said railway line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

CRANES IN MAJOR PORTS

399. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cranes installed on all the Major Ports in India and their numbers (dock-wise);

(b) how many of them are electric cranes semi-portal and portal and oil terminals;

(c) the number of new electric cranes installed in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras docks and the total cost of each; and

(d) how many of them are indigenous, how many imported, and the price of each?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). The Major Port Authorities have been asked to furnish the required information and on receipt of their replies, a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

बनारस और लखन्ऊ के रेलवे स्टेशन

४००. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगें :

(क) रेल विभाग को १९५२ में बनारस और लखनऊ के रेलवे स्टेशनों पर टिकटों की विक्री से कितनी आय हुई ;

(ख) उसी अवधि में इन स्टेशनों के बीच एक स्टेशन से दूसरे स्टेशन तक क्रमशः कितने यात्री आये गये ; और

(ग) रेल विभाग ने इन स्टेशनों पर यात्रियों की सुविधाओं के लिये क्रमशः कुल कितना व्यय किया ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

LABOUR UNIONS IN TRIPURA

401. **Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state how many Labour Unions have been registered in Tripura?

(b) What is the total number of membership of these registered Unions?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) 3

(b) 114

LOCOMOTIVES MANUFACTURING CONCERNS

402. Giani G. S. Musafir: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of private concerns, manufacturing Railway locomotives in India;

(b) the number of locomotives manufactured in these concerns per year, since they started production;

(c) the production capacity of these concerns; and

(d) whether there has been any difference in their capacity and actual production and if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Only one private concern—The Tata Locomotive and Engineering Company, Ltd.—is manufacturing Railway engines in the Country.

(b) 10 in 1951-52 and 25 in 1952-53 (upto 31-1-53).

(c) The agreement with the firm provides for the purchase by the Government of a minimum of 50 locomotives and 50 extra boilers per annum when production at the factory is fully established.

(d) The full production capacity of the firm has not yet been reached, as production is still in a development stage.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 4th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock.
[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

3-7 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

BILASPUR MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, a copy of each of the following notifications issued by the Chief Commissioner, Bilaspur (Simla Hills):

- (i) Notification No. TA(AD)25/78/52, dated the 18th July, 1952; and
- (ii) Notification No. TA(AD)25/140/51, dated the 6th July, 1951, containing the Bilaspur Motor Vehicles Rules, 1951.

[*Placed in Library. See* No.S-10/53.]

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now proceed to the discussion of the General Budget. I have to announce to the House that under Rule 184 (3), I fix that the time-limit for speeches will ordinarily be 15 minutes for each hon. Member excepting the Finance Minister for whom one hour or more will be allowed, if necessary.

At this stage the House will be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein.

For the benefit of new hon. Members, I would like to draw their attention to rule 184 (1) regarding the scope of the Budget as differentiated from the Finance Bill. During the Finance Bill, grievances may be brought to notice. That will be the occasion for that purpose. So far as the discussion of the Budget is concerned, under Rule 184 (1), the House shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein. The discussion will be regarding the point whether the items of expenditure ought to be increased or decreased having regard to the importance of a particular head and also the manner in which the Budget is framed. Grievances not related either to the Finance Minister's speech or not directly arising out of the proposed expenditure will not be in order at this stage. They may be deferred for ventilation at the time of the Finance Bill. Fifteen minutes will be the time-limit ordinarily for every hon. Member.

An Hon. Member: Including Ministers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Including Ministers, except the Finance Minister. So far as Leaders of particular groups are concerned, if they want some more time, they can take up to a maximum of thirty minutes, but this extra time will be accounted against the time allotted to the particular group.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): While speaking on the budget, I believe I should say something of the Finance Minister who has been responsible for the introduction of the Budget. Whatever differences there may be—and I believe there are differences—regarding the manner in which the administration of our country is being carried on, or allotments have been made in the Budget for the amelioration of the conditions of the people, I think, I can say without fear of contradiction that one of the assets of the country is the quiet and cautious optimism of our Finance Minister. Whatever differences there may be as I said just now, I think it is safe to assert that the financial credit of our country is sound, and apart from the geographical importance that India occupies, its vast economic possibilities, its potential wealth, and its tremendous manpower are capable of placing our country in a position of great international advantage. Of course, how the Government and the people are capable of transforming

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

this huge wealth of this country into practical realities is a different matter and on that performance naturally we will be judged not only by the present generation. but also by posterity.

The Budget shows a surplus of Rs. 42 lakhs, but that includes Rs. 18 crores which the Finance Minister expects to get from Pakistan. The Finance Minister while mentioning this fact himself could not check his inevitable smile, because, I believe, he had his doubts whether Rs. 18 crores will at all be realised or not. Naturally enough there is very little chance of our getting it, unless our overall policy towards Pakistan changes from the present policy of softness to one of firmness and decisiveness, even in the field of diplomacy. In respect of all matters relating to Indo-Pakistan relationship like East Bengal, or evacuee property, or canal water dispute, or Kashmir, unfortunately the initiative has always been in the hands of Pakistan and we have not been able to get what were our legitimate dues. Incidentally, I may draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the position of the holders—Indian citizens—of Pakistani securities to the tune of rupees four crores. They do not represent individuals alone, but represent institutions as well, and somehow the Finance Ministry has put a ban in the matter of exchange of these securities for Indian securities held in Pakistan. With a little endeavour we can easily get these rupees four crores which will be of special advantage to these unfortunate individuals and also to these institutions, a large part of whom have suffered enormously as a result of Partition.

The next major item which naturally attracts our attention is the Defence Budget. The Defence Budget absorbs about 50 per cent. of the Central expenditure and I believe about 25 per cent. of the expenditure of the entire country, including all the States. I, and many others on this side of the House, entirely agree with the Finance Minister and the Government that we should not take any undue risk and slacken our Defence arrangements in the highest interest of the country. Although we are perturbed at the manner in which this figure is mounting up, we also agree that it is not quantity that counts, but quality and it will be desirable for us to explore how easily and quickly we can maintain an Indian Army in all its three branches which will be able to defend the country in case of an emergency instead of adding unnecessarily to the number. I would ask the Finance Minister to consider the scheme which has been adumbrated by my hon. friend Mr. Patnaik regarding the possible utilisation of the leisure hours of the Armed Forces of the country, as has been done in various other countries. The Prime Minister is himself the Defence Minister for the time being and, I believe, this matter will also attract his attention.

There is one perturbing factor regarding our Defence scheme and that is the slow progress that we are making with regard to the development of Defence industries. Obviously today any defence arrangements worth their name must be dependent on highly technical skill and knowledge and also on the amount of freedom that a country enjoys from its dependence for the supply of essential requirements for keeping its Defences intact. Here we are a backward country in this respect and I feel that much more could have been done. It may be that all the proposals are not available before the House, but there should be some means for Members belonging to all the parties in knowing as to what are the effective proposals of the Government in this behalf.

Another matter which attracts our notice is the comparatively small provision which has been made for education and health and also for the development of small industries. I do not wish to develop this point at this stage, but the disproportionately small expenditure on the social services is certainly a distressing feature of our Budget. I believe that unless we expend more on education in an effective manner, it is not possible for us even to take advantage of the improvements which may be expected as a result of the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

In the vast plethora of pamphlets and other literature which have been showered upon us in the last few weeks, it is very difficult for us to know how exactly the Planning Commission's recommendations are being implemented. Last time I had made a request to the Finance Minister that he should be good enough to supply to us as briefly and simply as possible an idea of the manner in which both the finance side as also the expenditure side are being met in relation to the recommendations of the Planning Commission. So far as regional development of this country goes, unfortunately not much information has been made available. We have accepted the principle that there must be equitable development of the entire country regionwise, both north and south and east and west, and the Planning Commission also aims at that. But unfortunately it is not possible for us to ascertain how this has been achieved.

Incidentally the Finance Commissions recommendations have not been debated by the House. I am not speaking on behalf of my own province of West Bengal alone, because I feel that that province has not got its due share as a result of the recommendations of the Commission. Bengal and Bombay have suffered equally. It would have been better if none representing those two provinces was on the Commission and then perhaps the two provinces might have got a fairer deal. Of course, I am not blaming the members of the Commission. They proceeded on certain accepted principles. Eighty per cent. they gave on the basis of population and 20 per cent. on the basis of collections. I feel that that is not a fair percentage. Naturally I cannot go into this question in detail now. But at some stage we hope we will have an opportunity of making our observations in this behalf, because as was pointed out by an hon. Member yesterday nothing is sacrosanct and even the recommendations of the Commission may be varied, if really justice demands it. I am willing, and I should be prepared to pay my tribute to the members of the Commission who really discharged a very difficult and delicate task and they proceeded not on whimsical basis, but on the basis of certain accepted principles which they considered to be fair and just, though we may not agree with them in all their aspects.

Two years of the Plan period are over and we are now entering the third year So it is justifiable for us to ask how exactly is the Planning Commission report being implemented.

If we take the private sector, it was contemplated that about 1,432 crores of rupees would be spent during a period of five years. We get no information whatsoever as to how much of this has been achieved during the last two years and what exactly is going to be done during the coming year. There is no proposal, there is no indication as to how rehabilitation of the existing industries is going to take place or how new development schemes are going to be implemented which will fit in with the entire structure of the Planning Report.

Regarding the public sector, so far as revenue side is concerned, five sources were indicated. One was the revenue surplus of the Central Government and also of the State Governments. In this respect we know that our anticipations have not been fulfilled. We have not seen the budgets of all the State Governments, but practically all the budgets which have come forward have disclosed a deficit. We would like to know how much of the anticipated revenue from the revenue surplus of the Centre and the States budgets has actually been received in the course of the last two years, how much is expected to be received in the course of the coming year, and how it will reflect on the entire position.

So far as internal borrowing is concerned, as you know, Sir, the anticipations were not fulfilled. This year it is expected that we will be able to raise Rs. 100 crores. What is the basis for this estimate? That also is not clear. I can only put a question mark. Supposing it fails, what next?

Next comes taxation. Well I welcome the appointment of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, and I specially welcome the appointment of Dr. John Matthai as the Chairman of the Commission. I am sure he will be able to bring upon this very huge task his wide experience and, what is more, the independence of his outlook and he will be able to look at this problem, not from the point of view of any vested interests but of the entire national interests.

So far as taxation is concerned, we are not expecting any huge revenues out of this.

Then comes foreign loans. In regard to foreign loans, so far as I have been able to make calculations, up till now we have got eight per cent. of the total amount which we are going to spend for our development purposes. I know that there is a section of opinion which is very loath to accept foreign loan on any conditions. Well, I do not share that fear. If India is to develop, naturally India has to look to all parts of the world; and where we receive foreign loan which is not conditioned by any considerations which will be inimical to the interests of our country I see no objection to receiving such foreign loan. After all, it represents only eight per cent. of the total amount that the public sector is going to spend for development purposes during the next five years.

Still, there are possible political implications, in this regard which we cannot entirely ignore. Suppose war breaks out. Shall we be able to get all the equipments and other necessary supplies on which the continuance of the big projects that we have taken

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in hand will depend? Or a delicate situation may arise. The giving of this help, which will be very vital for our purposes of development, may carry with it some sort of understanding that in case of such a serious conflict India will have to take part irrespective of any other considerations. I am not saying that India will not take part under any circumstances. If it is necessary in India's interests, India will not be sitting idle. But shall we be forced into it? I do not share the view that anybody in the Government, from the Prime Minister to anybody else, is prepared to sell, or even for a moment thinks of selling this country to any foreign country for a mess of pottage. That consideration should not come in the mind of anyone, no matter what political views he may entertain with regard to home politics. Still, this is a matter where we have to be a little careful; because psychologically it produces a wrong atmosphere in the country that for vital things we are looking forward to foreign countries and without such supplies we cannot get going. There is one point which I would like to know from the Finance Minister, that is about the servicing of these loans. Our balance of payments position is somewhat satisfactory. But as he rightly points out, it may be a short-lived affair. It is not due to increased exports, but due to less imports. But if our balance of payments position does not continue to be satisfactory, then obviously the servicing of these loans will fall as an extra burden on us and that will create new complications.

Then comes the disputed question of deficit financing. I do not wish to dilate much on this point. But I generally share the view which has been expressed by the Finance Minister that deficit financing subject to certain conditions is not bad for our country's economy. But certain conditions have to be fulfilled. In other words, the limitations which can be reasonably imposed should not be exceeded. If with regard to other sources of revenue we get much less than our expectations, which are part and parcel of our Five Year Plan, obviously the alternative is that we shall have to fall back upon deficit financing. It may prove a bottomless pit and may mean disaster for the country. Then the only alternatives will be that we either give up the projects mid-way, which of course we cannot do, or we go ahead in a way which may bring the finances of the country to some serious position.

There is one factor which I believe the Finance Minister will bear in mind and that is that in countries like Sweden, Germany or America, where deficit financing has been resorted to, their economy is entirely different from ours. There is no question of any want of capital or equipments in those countries; the real question there was want of manpower. In our country unfortunately the real queston is want of capital and equipment; manpower is there, and we do not know how to utilise it. Therefore, this obvious difference in the economy of our country may play its part in undoing the financial future of this country if we depend too much on deficit financing.

I found in today's papers that certain extra facilities are being offered to foreign companies which would come and do business in India, in the matter of repatriation of the profits which may accrue. With regard to these foreign firms working in this country, there also we should be a little careful in seeing that their activities do not go against the national interests of our country or displace Indian industries. One fact also has appeared in today's papers that out of the higher executives which are employed by foreign firms in India today 75 per cent. are foreigners and 25 per cent. are Indians. Although in 1947, according to the figures published today, the number of Indians employed was only about eight per cent. and from that point of view it may be claimed that the percentage has gone up, if you analyse the number, the number of European employees now imported to this country is much larger than what it was in 1947. Here one question has got to be considered. I am not suggesting that no foreign firms should be allowed to bring any employee belonging to their nationality. But certain conditions should be laid down—if by mutual arrangement, certainly good; but if that is not possible, by legislation if necessary—that foreigners will be allowed to come in only in posts which cannot be held by Indians. Today I do not wish to go into details. But there are a large number of ordinary posts of an executive nature, which are held by Europeans, by young Europeans, which can easily be occupied by qualified Indians. With regard to technical posts they can bring foreigners if not available here. There also a condition should be added that within a certain stated or agreed period, three or five years, even those technical posts should be held by Indians and proper training should be given to them within such period.

So far as community projects are concerned, here also this consideration applies to a very large extent. I am told that for the purpose of working of the community projects we are importing machinery and also equipment which may be available in this country, and I am told that has been made a condition for the grant of this hlep which we are getting from America. This point has to be gone into in the interests of our own industries. If those equipments, parts and other materials which are to be used are available in this country or if they can be made available after a little effort, there is no reason why with the receipt of this monetary grant should go the assurance from India that we would be compelled to purchase goods and materials also from those countries.

With regard to the State undertakings, these big projects which are coming up here, I would like to say a few words. During the construction period, in view of our past experience, we must be able to impose checks and restrictions so that there may not be any wastage. We know the estimates grew up, the estimates doubled, in some cases trebled in the past. If that happens again in the future, that will disturb the entire financial structure of the Planning Commission's Report. Therefore, from the very beginning, some financial control must be kept so that the estimates which have been prepared are actually observed and also the work is carried on in a manner which may not lead to any sensations or scandals later on. That is with regard to the precaution which has to be taken during the construction period. The Finance Minister has not given any indication as to how it is going to be done although we raised this question on the debate of the Planning Commission's Report. Afterwards, obviously they are to be handed over to Corporations. We do not want that they should be departmentally managed but what should be the relationship between these Corporations and Parliament? We will be responsible for finding the money. Parliament cannot obviously go and interfere with the day-to-day administration of these institutions. This is not an easy matter. I saw the other day this matter was engaging the attention of the House of Commons and they are trying to evolve some formula so that the proper check can be kept on the working of these institutions and national expenditure may be saved and protected thereby.

One suggestion which I would like to make to the Finance Minister is that with regard to all these institutions, a system of concurrent audit should be introduced immediately. The Public Accounts Committee has a chance of seeing the working of these institutions later on, after a few years but at that time the damage is done. It is a *post mortem* examination which may give pleasure to some people or a sense of shame to others. If we have a system of concurrent audit from the very beginning, then I am sure 90 per cent. of the troubles which we have to face now will disappear.

Then, with regard to the trained personnel, I thought the Finance Minister would be able to announce what definite proposals are there before Government for having trained Indian personnel for every part of the work that is now going to be taken up, in connection with these big enterprises which India is going to take in hand in the next three or four years. I suppose we should be able to have them managed with Indians and Indians alone and not be dependent on any foreigner. We must be able to create a class of administrators whose services will be available at our disposal for the purpose of carrying on the activities of these institutions on a national scale and in a businesslike manner.

I do not want to go into the details with regard to the several items but so far as the achievements side is concerned, I would like to say a few words. If I may say so, this is a Budget of light and shade. The light can be made lighter, the shade can be made more shady depending on the critic who uses the brush but here, so far as these achievements are concerned, there are many obvious paradoxes. Food self-sufficiency is going to be achieved. If that is attained, that will be the biggest achievement of the present Government. The Food Minister is shaking his head and is saying he meant rice and not food. Of course, the more he goes underground, the greater will be the possibilities of his finding rice from quarters known and unknown. If we are becoming self-sufficient in rice by 1953, that will be a big achievement but simultaneously we have reports of scarcity and famine pockets. We had just now a question about Rajasthan, about pucka wells and Kucha wells and all the rest of them minus of course the food which the people need to keep them going. Simi-

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larly, with regard to Maharashtra, parts of South India, parts of West Bengal, in the Sunderbans area, people are starving. It is not a question of want of foodgrains alone. It is a question of lack of purchasing power and it will be to our utter shame if we talk of food being available for the whole of the country and at the same time allow famine pockets to grow in different parts of the country. Food shortage, if it is due to maladministration, must be checked.

Similarly, with regard to the economic improvement of the country, so far as cost of living index is concerned, well, it has not come down appreciably although, so far as the index of commodities is concerned, it has gone down to a certain extent. So far as middle class relief is concerned, some relief has been given by the Finance Minister but it is not much. I received a representation from the clerks of the Government offices, thousands of them, who are receiving only Rs. 55/- as their basic pay. No doubt it is due to the recommendations of the Pay Commission but these are matters which require special examination because it affects a large number of people who are in Government employment and who cannot make both ends meet.

I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the question of unemployment and under-employment which is increasing in the country. He said in a passing way that this calls for a long-term measure but what is the position here as we can find out from the report?

In 1951, 13,75,000 applications were registered with Employment Exchanges and placements were 4,16,000. In 1952, registrations went up to 14,36,000 and placements were 3,67,000. For every 100 technically qualified men only 12 could be given appointment. These are in the Report of the Planning Commission. For every 100 clerks, only four could be employed. In the Planning Commission Report it is said that every year about 90 lakhs of people would get employment. It is a very rough calculation but is there any estimate for us to know as to how many of these 90 lakhs actually get employed in the first two years and how many expect to get employment in the coming year. Similarly there is a very fine reference to a scheme for educated unemployed. How many of the educated unemployed have actually been absorbed? The Finance Minister said that the industries are showing larger production but big industries like jute, tea, sugar, engineering and textiles are disclosing now a situation which is certainly causing anxiety. The Finance Minister said that we are now passing on from the seller's market to the buyer's market. So far as the position of small traders and manufacturers is concerned, millions of them are on the verge of collapse. One of the main principles of the Planning Commission's Report was that Government would see to it that the maximum capacity of the existing industries is utilised. If you allow the existing industries to disappear or to go into pieces, what is the use of putting up a few big enterprises with the help of foreigners and saying that we have made tremendous achievements in these directions.

With regard to the formation of the Andhra Province, I do not find a provision in the Budget with regard to the capital for Andhra. This question by itself is creating lots of difficulties and naturally its omission will further accentuate troubles in that area.

I do not wish to deal with other points like rehabilitation and Indo-Pak relations. Also these will come up in connection with the debate on Grants.

The only point which I would like to bring to the notice of the House is with regard to the situation which is still continuing in Jammu. I feel very much cheered by this sort of laughter—sincere or insincere I do not know, but still there is laughter and that must be very cheerful. The point is this. As the Finance Minister has said repeatedly, nothing can be achieved with regard to the schemes of the Government unless and until there is complete understanding between the people and the Government and the less the opportunities that occur for the purpose of increasing the gap of difference between the Government and the people, the less remote will be the possibility of giving effect to these big proposals which are now being considered in connection with the Budget. Also, from that point of view, we should try to have some sort of settlement on the Jammu issue. I do not wish to go into the details. We will get some time later on when we can refer to it but the point which I would like to emphasise is this that we do not wish to raise any question which might create difficulties for the future. What we wanted to do was that certain doubts and fears which have been raised have to be dispelled. It is no use attributing motives to each other. The correspondence which I had with the Prime Minister has been released today with his consent. We tried our best to put our view points there because we felt that unless we are able to solve this problem, we will not be able to get along in the future. Here, repression cannot be the only remedy. Certain political, economic and administrative questions have been raised. They have to be considered on their merits. It is a matter of deep regret that while we speak glibly on the need for maintaining peaceful conditions in the country and doing everything possible so that all sections of the people may feel that they are working in a truly democratic set up, in actual administration. Government should be unable to take note of the volume of opinion or the feelings of a section of the people and should hesitate to solve this dispute in a statesmanlike manner or in a peaceful manner. If these things go on in this way, naturally the gap will become bigger and bigger and that will not be to the benefit of the Government and that will not be to the benefit of the people. Therefore, even at this late stage, although the Prime Minister is not here, I can make an appeal to the Government with regard to this question. Let the Government put forward certain proposals either on the lines that we have indicated or on any other line which can bring this movement to a close. The continuance of a repressive policy will create such bitterness and hatred, as the Prime Minister said the other day, that it will be impossible to remove such an atmosphere in the future. We want that this country should grow from prosperity to prosperity. We want that we should have a democratic set-up in this country where both the majority party and the minority party should be able to pool their energies together for the good of the nation.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): No parties.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If the majority party, the party in Government, feel that their word is law and whatever they say is the final word, naturally, it will create a situation which will not be desirable for them, which will not be desirable for the country as a whole.

I have tried to analyse the Budget and put forward a few viewpoints on some major issues from this constructive angle of vision. I have not gone into the other points. I might have found many loopholes. I might have found many defects. I have tried to give a certain version of the Budget picture which should receive due attention in the hands of the Finance Minister so that the Planning Commission Report may be put into execution. Although we have not agreed that it is going to create a tremendous popular feeling in the country, yet if certain good things can be achieved, we will be sharers in that. There is no question of taking any obstructive attitude. I am only anxious for the creation of that proper atmosphere in the country which will make real co-operative effort and enterprise successful.

Shri Mahtab (Cuttack): The Budget which has been presented by the Finance Minister has been framed in rather unusual circumstances. Usually, the Finance Minister is the sole master of the Budget and he determines the economic policy and programme.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): Is it a debate between an Ex and an Ex?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: You are an Ex.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is a greater Ex

Shri Mahtab: I think this is the first time that the policy and programme of the Government has been pre-determined by another authority, namely, the Planning Commission. I think probably this is the first time that the Budget has closely followed the recommendations of the Planning Commission. Therefore, the Budget should be judged and discussed from the background of the recommendations of the Planning Commission. It cannot be discussed separately from the recommendations of the Planning Commission. As the House knows, the Plan has been drawn up after a great deal of deliberation, after hard work for two years by the Planning Commission and has been adopted by Parliament after a great deal of deliberation. It has been condemned outright by a section of the House; it has been damned with faint praise by another section. But, nevertheless, the Plan as a whole has been accepted by the country generally and much hope has been created roundabout that Plan. We should judge and discuss this Budget from the view point of that Plan.

Those of the Members of the House who know something about the Planning of other countries must have known that almost everywhere plans were financed by unusual means. In Germany in 1933, for the execution of the Plan, the then German Government took recourse to inflationary financing as it used to be called then. In Russia they financed all their Five Year Plans with the help of compul-

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sory sacrifice of millions of people and probably that process is still going on. In the New Deal in the USA, they took recourse to several steps which practically created drastic changes in the economic conditions of the day. But, here, thanks to the ingenuity of the Finance Minister, he has accommodated our Plan which is larger in size than any other plan of this kind, in comparable circumstances in any other country, in a Budget which might be called a normal Budget. Somehow, he has been able to yoke the dash which is required for the execution of a Plan with the traditional caution of the Finance Ministry. That is a wonderful feat, I must admit.

An Hon. Member: Acrobatic.

Shri Mahtab: I would like to refer to one sentence of the Finance Minister's speech. He said that the manner in which additional borrowings should be secured can be decided only during the course of the year with reference to the conditions as they develop. I am sure that this does not indicate any kind of lurking doubt in the mind of the Finance Minister that, after all, the budgeted money cannot be spent during the course of the year for various reasons Having some experience as a Finance Minister for some years in a State, I know that unless there are suitable circumstances and a tuned administrative machinery, it is not possible to spend the whole of the budgeted amount. I am sure, as the Plan goes on working sufficient attention will be given to the tuning of the administrative machinery to bear the stress of this Budget and also the stress of the execution of the Plan.

So far as the Central part of the work is concerned, the Finance Minister has provided the necessary funds as recommended by the Planning Commission. But, so far as the States are concerned, I have great doubts whether they would be in a position to find the wherewithal for their part of the contribution. Many States have submitted deficit Budgets before their respective Assemblies and I do not know whether there is any large scope for fresh taxation in all these States. Therefore, the appointment of the Taxation Enquiry Committee is welcome and I hope that they will find out some means by which the States would be able to find the necessary money towards their contribution for the execution of the Plan. The Finance Commission has come to the rescue of the States. This time, they have adopted a new line of approach to the question of the devolution of the Central Revenues. Its recommendations have not been approved by the previous speaker. But, here, representing as I do an undeveloped province, I should say that the recommendations of the Finance Commission and their acceptance by the Government *in toto* have created confidence in the undeveloped States that their case would not go unheeded, that there is some authority which will give a fair deal to all these undeveloped regions. However undeveloped the whole of India may be, it is a fact that all these regions are not on the same line. Some are quite ahead, some are backward, and it is not the fault of the undeveloped regions that they are undeveloped. As a matter of fact, some areas could develop according to the necessity of the foreign rulers, and these rulers have developed these regions at the cost of what are today undeveloped areas in India. For the sake of political and economic stability, it is necessary that special attention should be paid to the undeveloped regions, and I must say that the Finance Commission has adopted a new line of approach, and I sincerely trust that the next Finance Commission would develop this idea and go further to help the undeveloped regions.

Shri B. Das (Jajpur-Keonjhar): Five years later.

Shri Mahtab: As regards the Budget, I am told by a section of our friends, that it does not create any enthusiasm. I do not know whether any of us has gone into this question of creating enthusiasm. First of all, the conception of a welfare state does not create that kind of excitement as the conception of a power state. India has chosen to be a welfare state, as distinguished from a power state, which many other countries have chosen to be for the time being, at any rate. They are now building up large industries, as against others, to back up their war machinery and they are bidding to be the first rate powers in the world. But here we have given up that line. We have chosen to give up that line. It was open to us to adopt that line too, but we have chosen to give up that line, and we have chosen to be a welfare state.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is it a welfare state?

Shri Mahtab: Therefore the Plan and the Budget must go the same way. We cannot compare our Plan and our

Budget with the plan and budget of those countries which have chosen to be power states. There must be a fundamental difference between the characters of these two plans. If this fundamental difference is appreciated, then I think none should be disappointed that there is no reflection of that kind of activity, as for instance, large scale industries, war industries etc., in the Budget itself. As a matter of fact, the Planning Commission has rejected that idea and has taken recourse to some other kind of planning, which we are in at the present moment.

A welfare state in a democratic constitution must depend largely on public co-operation. The expression 'public cooperation' has been so hackneyed and it is being understood in so many different ways, that I think it is necessary to think out what it is. Therefore, I wholeheartedly endorse the observations of the hon. Finance Minister, which were made towards the end of his speech. Directions for the public co-operation should be as precise as possible, and at the same time, there should be readiness on the part of the community to obey these directions and to render as much assistance as possible towards the execution of the Plan. Of course, I do not speak here to those who condemn this Plan outright. But I address myself to those who accept this Plan with some kind of murmur. I address myself to those, requesting them to at least keep quiet, for the time being, and see how the things go on. Otherwise, if this Plan is always criticised from various points of view, even with good motives, I do not think it will be possible to arouse that kind of enthusiasm in the country which is required. At the same time, I would request the Government also to devise some means to associate the people with every stage of the administration, so that they may have a sense of responsibility in the execution of the Plan. It is the sense of responsibility which will create enthusiasm, and it is the sense of responsibility which will create the necessary confidence in the people also. That, I think, is bound to come, as the Plan goes on. And the Government will gradually realise that unless the administration is tuned to the wishes of the people, and the people are associated with the administration at important stages it would not be possible to carry the people with them always.

Now, there is one statement which the hon. Finance Minister has made, and which I anticipate, will be very much contested, and that is when he said that in the course of the last nine months, there has been economic progress in the country. But I do not think that there should be any reasonable protest against that statement. It may be the opinion of some that the progress has not been up to expectation; it may be that some people may say that more progress could have been achieved, but could not be achieved. But I do not think any serious student of economics who is observing the conditions of the country, and who has got the available information, will come to the conclusion that there has been absolutely no progress at all. I am sorry to say that it is asserted in many quarters that there has been reverse progress. I do not think that any serious critic will ever come to that conclusion. If he does, it will only amount to this, that the morale of the public or the progressing nation will be very much adversely affected, which in turn will adversely affect the political parties also, and even the critics themselves, if they go on decrying a progressing nation. In their own interest, it is necessary to feel that there has been progress, but there ought to be more progress. In fact every one demands more progress. I for myself demand more progress, and the Government themselves want more progress as well.

I am glad to learn that the hon. Finance Minister is feeling inclined to agree that the system of collecting data for preparing the indices of wholesale and retail prices is faulty. As a matter of fact, the base year which has been taken as 1939, should not be taken as such in the changed circumstances. First of all, the post-war effects, the post-independence effects as a result of partition, and above all the devaluation of the rupee, have created a permanent effect on the economic conditions of this country. And in fact, the economy of the year 1939 has nothing to do with the economy of the country today. I would therefore suggest that the year 1949 or 1950 should be taken as the base year, because roundabout that year, the economic position of the country established itself. Similarly, the system of collecting data also should be revised, and the sooner the hon. Finance Minister takes it up, the better, in order that the statistics may give a more ealistic and accurate picture of the economic condition of the country.

With regard to foreign aid, criticism about it has become more or less hackneyed in this House and outside too. I think both the sides know the pros

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and cons of this foreign assistance business, but I may suggest that there is another point of view also, and as a matter of fact, it is from that point of view that I look upon this foreign assistance. And that is this. During the last war, when India was under foreign rule, without any stipulation, the allied powers, and particularly the U.S.A., were allowed to use this country as one of their major bases of operation against the Fascist countries, and Russia was included in the allied countries then. There was no stipulation whatsoever, and because India was used as a major base, the entire economy of the country was damaged tremendously, and whatever suffering we had later on as a result of the post-war effects, was due to these war preparations in this country by others. India, after Independence, could have demanded reparation for the damage done from the allied powers, but fortunately it has so happened that India has achieved her Independence peacefully, and what would be the harm if the question of reparation is solved peacefully in this manner? It is expected of all the allied powers that they should render India assistance, as a sort of reparation for the damages that they have done in this country against India's wishes. From this point of view, I do not see how there could be any kind of doubt that there is some moral obligation attached to this foreign assistance. On the contrary, the allied powers, and particularly the U.S.A., have discharged their moral obligation to India, for they have used this country as their base of operation, against the wishes of the country, and it was done without any stipulation. Therefore, I do not see anything wrong from any point of view, in receiving this foreign assistance, and it will be certainly good of all the allied powers to come to the aid of India and undo the damage which they have done here some years back.

4 P.M.

Now, the Planning Commission have recommended protection of small scale and village industries. Certainly, I must expect that this policy will be followed in its entirety. Here the handloom industry is a typical village industry today. If that problem is solved, I think the problem of village industries can possibly be solved. But I do not think that that policy is being followed in its entirety. Today an announcement regarding relaxation of the import policy has been published in the newspapers. I was surprised to see that some cotton piecegoods also have been allowed to be imported. There was a ban on this import since 1949, and I do not see how the handloom industry or any cottage industry can be developed; while there is so much production and textile mill production is being restricted, at the same time foreign piecegoods also are being imported. I do not think there is co-ordination in these policies. That should be looked into.

Development of village and small-scale industries really means decentralisation of industry. As a matter of fact, as I have said at an earlier stage, all the regions of the country are not well developed. In the interest of small-scale and cottage industries, it is necessary that industry and trade should be distributed, as far as possible, regionwise and in that way, the wealth of the country should be distributed in as wide a circle as possible. Unless this is done, the problem of monopolies and combines is likely to arise in this country. Now that the Government have introduced the system of licensing and have got full control over the import and export trade, it would be easy for them to pursue this policy of decentralising trade and industry so that they may not be concentrated in a few hands and in a few places.

The Planning Commission's recommendations can be criticised reasonably from only one point of view, as far as I can think of, and that is, that they have not given top priority to the problem of unemployment. Mere development of agriculture will not solve this problem. As a matter of fact, it has so happened, unfortunately, that agriculture has remained the occupation of only uneducated people. Therefore, as education spreads, unemployment spreads also in the agriculturist class itself. That problem should be thoroughly looked into and, in my opinion, a two-pronged attack should be made. First of all, agriculture as an occupation should be made so attractive that the educated people also should go in for it. Secondly, the scope of small-scale industries should be opened up on a very large scale in all parts of the country to engage the unemployed people. These two steps may be thought out and without disturbing the priorities laid down by the Planning Commission, steps may be taken by using the various kinds of powers which the Government have got and relief afforded to the unemployed.

I agree with Dr. Mookerjee that the Budget is very weak on the point of education. I do not complain so much because of non-provision of sufficient amounts, but because of non-payment of attention to the problem. Although we are independent today, it is surprising that no attention has been paid to the change of curriculum and the text-books also. Some of these text-books would appear fantastic now after Independence. Similarly, no attention has been paid to effect that much of reform in the educational system. Of course a stir was created over the report of the University Commission presided over by Dr. Radhakrishnan. I do not know what happened to that Report. In every province, the need for reform in education is being keenly felt. Some of the States, as appears from newspapers, are going ahead to make their own changes. It will be a very bad day for the country if the States take upon themselves the reform of education and in that way create differences throughout the country. I think the problem of reform of education from the very lowest level, of reforming the text-books and the curriculum, should be taken up immediately.

Then there is another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister, the Government and the House. That is the training of officers. The Constitution provides for the establishment of a Central Service. The IAS has been established under that provision in the Constitution. But sufficient attention has not been paid to the training of these officers. The fact is that here in this country recruitment to these Services—not only to the Central Services but also to the State Services—is made from all ranks having no academic knowledge of administration; because Public Administration is nowhere a faculty in any University except perhaps Mysore University. Therefore, those who come as recruits to the Services have no previous academic knowledge of administration. If there is no training, then I do not know how the administration of this country will be carried on. It is probably for that reason that the administration of this country is gradually deteriorating and this is admitted on all hands, by the senior officers. Therefore, the training of these officers should be considered as essential and should be given high priority. In the case of the execution of the plans, particularly of the community projects, it must have attracted the attention of the authorities that separate training for those who work there is necessary. In that case, some duplication of work is going on. There are already many in the service who are not trained and new people are being trained to do the same work. So to avoid this duplication, the question of training for these Central and State Services should be taken up very soon.

Then, with regard to what Dr. Mookerjee said about public cooperation, I have very carefully gone through the pamphlet which he has issued and which I received only this morning. I have nothing to say on the merits of the question, but what I beg to suggest to him is that the method has to be revised. I do not want to say much on that subject now. If necessary, I may have some discussion with him later on. It seems to me there is something wrong in the method which has been adopted there. Let us try to think it out and come to a solution so that there will be an atmosphere of constructive work in this country.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): I rise to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a very bold and courageous Budget which, I think, is drawn after the painters of the Impressionist School. This is a Budget which gives a very good picture if you look at it from a proper perspective. But if you come closer to it, you are bound to find some small blemishes here and there. That, in my opinion, is not the fault of the painter, but of the situation that he is called upon to depict and tackle.

While going through the Budget, one is struck by the imagination which has been shown in tackling the vast developmental problem presented by the Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan made it incumbent on the Finance Minister to devise ways and means for having a capital outlay of 2069 crores of rupees in five years. In order to obtain this huge amount, the Planning Commission have laid down a certain resources Budget. It was the duty of the Finance Minister to have confined himself to those very broad resources that have been laid down, and I believe that he has succeeded to a very large extent in achieving that task.

But, having said this, I must state that the presentation of the Budget leaves a number of loopholes which could have been easily plugged. Of course, as the Finance Minister says, it is the Planning Budget. But, in my opinion, apart from the general financial aspect that has been tackled from the point of view of planning, and in a very able and bold manner, the presentation of the Budget, does not give any indication that it is really a Planning Budget. Because, even if you

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wade through the Explanatory Memorandum, you are at a loss to find out as to what is the actual developmental expenditure in keeping with the programme laid down in the Five Year Plan that has been devised under this Budget. At one place, in the Finance Minister's speech, it occurs that the Government's outlay on development will be of the order of 225 crores of rupees. But, if you look at the Explanatory Memorandum, Statement IX, the total will come to Rs. 253 crores. To this total one must add the figure of Rs. 39 crores on the developmental expenditure on the railways. Now, I am at a loss to find out as to which of these two figures, namely Rs. 253 plus Rs. 39 crores or the Rs. 225 crores figure is correct.

Similarly, if you go through the Explanatory Memoranda of the previous two years, the same discrepancy occurs. But, I have tried to go through all these in order to arrive at a figure of the capital outlay that has been incurred by the Government of India during the last two years and that is going to be incurred during the coming year and I come to the figure of about Rs. 633 crores. But, from this figure, quite a good amount will have to be deducted. It is very difficult to say from these Budget estimates as to what will be the amount. But, taking it to be the order of about Rs. 100 crores, the Central Government's capital outlay during these three years would be of the order of nearly Rs. 533 crores. As against this, we have no idea as to how much amount has been spent by the State Governments. The Budget is absolutely silent on that. And, this is surprising because the State Governments have to spend about 60 per cent. of the amounts which have to be found by the Central Government. If one is to have any idea as to how much amount is being spent on the Plan as a whole, no one can do so without a correct picture being received from the various State Governments. So far there is only tentative estimate of capital outlays of the States and the Centre and that is by the Reserve Bank of India. In this, the total figure, both for the States and the Central Governments during the last two years is of the order of Rs. 667 crores. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech said that both the Central and the State Governments would have spent about Rs. 600 crores during the last two years. In my opinion this figure has not actually been reached. Now, I can indulge only in guess and the Finance Minister will please correct me. My own idea is that not more than Rs. 550 crores has been spent during the last two years. For the next year, that is 1953-54, the Government of India's capital outlay, according to this Statement IX of the Explanatory Memorandum, would come to, including Railways about Rs. 293 crores. This includes Rs. 102 crores, which is being given as 'Loans and advances to the State Governments'. That leads to a figure of about Rs. 200 crores. As against this Rs. 200 crores, in my opinion, the State Governments would spend about Rs. 120 or Rs. 130 crores in the coming year and that too, in my opinion, with very great difficulty because most of the State Budgets are showing deficits. Therefore, during these three years, the total expenditure on developmental programme both of the States and of the Centre, would be not more than Rs. 900 or Rs. 950 crores. That means, in the following two years, we will be faced with a figure of more than Rs. 1,100 crores to be spent. Now, according to the speed with which we are progressing, I feel it is highly doubtful if we will be able to reach the target of Rs. 2069 crores. Therefore, my humble advice to the Finance Minister would be to have a continuous check over the amounts that are being spent both at the Centre and also in the Provinces so that our Plan is not held up on account of the sluggishness on the part of the State Governments and the Central Government from spending the necessary amounts.

The second question is that of deficit financing. According to the Finance Minister, Rs. 80 crores have been spent on deficit financing during the last two years. This report of the Reserve Bank, which I have quoted, puts the figure for the last two years as Rs. 212 crores. This, of course, includes the deficits both at the Centre and of the State Governments. To this figure of Rs. 212 crores, in the last two years, we must add the figure of Rs. 140 crores which is going to be incurred on deficit account during the year 1953-54. This will give us a figure of Rs. 352 crores. This is a very high figure. But one thing must be said against this and that is the sum of Rs. 212 crores was not of that kind of deficit financing which is normally understood by my friends on the opposite benches. This 212 crores came from the resources of the Central Government and the State Governments. This also came from the securities which were held by the State Governments. And, the expenditure of this means dipping into your past savings and to that extent its inflationary potentialities cannot be compared to that of deficit financing proper, which is proposed to be undertaken to the extent of Rs. 110 crores during the coming year. Now, this figure of Rs. 110 crores, in my opinion, is not at all frightening because the Plan itself has laid down that a safe limit for deficit financing during the five years would be of the order of Rs. 290 crores and they also said that for the remaining Rs. 365 crores, the Government of India could also have some more deficit financing There is one re-assuring feature here. The Finance Minister has said in his speech that it is not necessary that he will issue *ad hoc* securities against this entire sum of Rs. 110 crores. He may go to the market if the conditions are favourable for borrowing. But even if this entire amount is incurred by offering *ad hoc* securities I do not think the prospect should frighten anybody because after all the price level and the cost of living index have come down and will be within check. I was surprised to hear from Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee that the cost of living index had not come down.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Appreciably.

Shri Bansal: I did not hear that adjective. But the figure in his own town of Calcutta has come down from 385 to 346 in December. In August 1951 the peak was 385 and now in December 1952 it has come down to 346, and I think it is quite an appreciable decline.

Then, referring to the rate of developmental expenditure, what surprised me not the least is that in spite of the fact that certain sums are allocated for a number of good developmental schemes, the amounts are not fully utilised. I have no time, Sir, as you have rung the bell, but I would have quoted a number of figures to show...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has three more minutes.

Shri Bansal: Thank you, Sir.

For example, for the Steel Plant the Planning Commission has provided a capital outlay of Rs. 30 crores and the Budget provided a figure of Rs. 1·75 crores. As against this in the revised estimate an expenditure has been taken credit of for rupees ten lakhs. I am at a loss to understand firstly as to why we have not made sufficient progress with the setting up of the steel plant and if we go at this rate, how are we going to have the Steel Plant and spend this Rs. 30 crores. More than this, although nothing has been done, we have already spent Rs. ten lakhs on the Steel plant. I know that a mission went to America to negotiate with some Japanese firm but that certainly could not have cost ruppees ten lakhs. Similarly the provision in the Budget was for Rs. 10·9 crores for outlay on industries, the actual disbursement during 1952-53 has been Rs. 1·95 crores. On the Machine tools factory the budgeted amount was Rs. 1·50 crores while in the revised estimate it is Rs. 1·19 crores. On the manufacture of dry core Rs. 70 lakhs were allocated while Rs. 30 lakhs were supposed to have been utilised. The same story is repeated as regards the National Instrument Factory and some other allocations. This is a very bad thing indeed because after all the instrument of the Planning Commission for putting the plans into force is the Production Ministry of the Government of India and if this Production Ministry fails to utilise all the amounts allocated to it, I do not know how we are going to implement the Five Year Plan. Therefore, I would suggest with all the earnestness that at least the Central Government and particularly the Production Ministry of the Central Government should keep to the schedule of expenditure as laid down in the Planning Commission's report.

Then from the purely budgetary point of view, that is, for the use of layman like ourselves, who are neither auditors nor great financial experts, the manner in which the Budget is presented and the Explanatory Memorandum is prepared require certain fundamental changes. The analysis in my opinion is very out-moded. If you go through the general statement of revenue and expenditure you will find an item 'Irrigation'. For 1953-54 the figure budgeted is Rs. 18 lakhs. One would have thought that in these days of huge irrigation schemes the amount would be very much larger running into crores, if not hundreds of crores. The same is the story about electricity schemes, under which an item occurs of Rs. 11,000. This may be correct from the purely audit point of view but for the layman the presentation should be in such a manner that it will be possible for us to understand at a glance as to what the items are and what is the expenditure which is being incurred.

I will take two more minutes......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. I have allowed sufficient time to the hon. Member. I gave him a warning three minutes in advance.

Shri Bansal: I will just sum up, Sir, in a minute.

[Shri Bansal]

My concrete suggestion would be that the Planning Commission should provide along with the Budget a White Paper indicating the progress of the Plan and the relation of the Budget to the Plan. If it is found difficult to cover the State budgets also at the time that the Central Budget is prepared, another document may be prepared in the mid-year which would review the Central and State Budgets in relation to the Plan, particularly focussing attention on spheres in which the Plan is not being fulfilled. The Commission should also present a supplementary demand for grant so that the unspent balances could be utilised on the next best alternative sources. That is the only way we can fufil the targets laid down in the Plan. Then the form and contents of the budget should be looked into with a view to make it less complicated and more informative and more useful as an instrument in analysing economic policies.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I confess to a certain weariness of spirit as I take part in this debate and this is because in this talking shop or perhaps, I should say this gas chamber, following an expression used by an hon. friend from the other side of the House, whom I shall not name, the fumes which are exuded......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not know whether any hon. Member said so. It is very wrong to indulge in such words. I am sorry that the expression 'gas chamber' used by an hon. Member was not brought to my notice. Let us respect our Chamber in which we are all sitting as hon. Members here.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it unparliamentary?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I consider that whatever other Parliaments may say, we need not call our Parliament a 'talking shop'.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): Is it right to call Parliament a talking shop?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not wish that hon. Members should refer to Parliament as a talking shop. I do not want to copy any other Parliament. If they have used such words, that is a different matter. This is a supreme institution functioning for the whole country and all power flows from that, though the power flows into Parliament from the people.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I am sorry. I will accept your ruling. I was saying that I do have a great weariness of spirit because I find it rather difficult to be crossing swords over and over again with the members of the Treasury Benches who do have, according to my way of thinking, a certain amount of unendurable complacence about what they are doing. I would have liked the candour of the Finance Minister, if he had presented his Budget thus: "An ill favoured thing, but mine own", if he had said about the Plan, for example, that it was not a prize to be won but a predicament to get through, I could have understood it. He did nothing of that sort. He gave a speech which was very clear, very cold and so completely dead. You may differ, but that was the impression I got. I am sorry for my country, because its destinies are in the hands of people who do have this kind of feeling, but I know that this capital city of Delhi for which the Finance Minister in his Budget is shelling out Rs. 1·59 crores as capital outlay, this city has been the historic graveyard of vainglory. Like the Railway Budget the General Budget is a Budget of *status quo*. This is not an expression which I am manufacturing. This statement has been made by that eminently respectable liberal paper, the *Hindu* of Madras and the stock-exchanges which leap up with joy when they see the rainbow of a possible war in sight, are very happy over the Budget which the Finance Minister has presented. The *Times of India's* correspondent from Calcutta reported "marked stimulation was provided by the Budget proposals which were regarded as more favourable than anticipated".

Most of the world's good men do not know the difference between "Tata deferred" and a "tram ticket", but it seems the Tata deferred had a very big rise and all sorts of complicated things happened in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Kanpur and other places. What I fear is that the Finance Minister's Budget's barometer is not the people of the country, the barometer is the 'Bourse', that is, the stock-exchange and those who gamble with money and with the destinies of the people are buoyant. they are so very happy because they know, as far as they are concerned, the melodies which they have heard from the Finance Minister are sweet but those unheard are perhaps even sweeter. The Government and especially the Finance Minister has made up his mind to pander to the interests of big business, foreign as well as Indian big business. Perhaps I could say "let me not to the marriage of true minds, admit impediment", but I am afraid my people will not allow him to get away with that sort of thing. It is exactly the interests of the people which have been given the go-by in this Budget which we are discussing. This self-proclaimed Welfare State about which my hon. friend Shri Mahtab was so eloquent a little while ago spends, as the figures appended to the Finance Commission's Report show very eloquently, barely one-third of its total Central and State revenues on social service items. Its pattern of budgeting is inherited from the bad old days of imperialism and except for bravado, it makes very little change.

Now, who exactly are the friends of Government can be seen from a comparison of the proportion of direct taxation to indirect taxation ever since the Congress took office. I have got here some figures from 1947-48 to 1953-54, and the proportion of direct taxation revenue to total taxation revenue in 1947-48 appears to have been 47 per cent., while the proportion of indirect taxation revenue to total taxation revenue was 53 per cent. In 1952-53, the proportion of direct taxation revenue to the total taxation revenue was 30·4 per cent. and the proportion of indirect taxation to the total taxation revenue was 69·6 per cent. In 1953-54, as far as we can make out, the proportion of direct taxation revenue to total taxation revenue is 28·3 per cent. while the proportion of indirect taxation revenue to total taxation revenue is 71·7 per cent.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

This means that the lightening of taxation is happening as far as big business interests, foreign as well as Indian, are concerned, while there is a progressive increase of taxation as far as the common people are concerned. We also find a softness on the part of Government for quite some time for big money interests.

We saw that in 1948-49 the rates of taxation on business profits, Super-tax and corporation income were reduced. In 1949-50, we saw the complete abolition of the Capital Gains Tax and a further reduction in the rate of Super-tax. In 1950-51, there was a further reduction in the rate of taxes on business profits and incomes of corporations and individuals with incomes of over Rs. 15,000 a year. On the other hand, not only were indirect taxes on the common people steadily increased, but the railway rates and postal rates, were systematically enhanced, and in regard to postal rates, this year also we have had some sample of the way the mind of the Government is working.

Now, apart from this, we find that the total revenue in the General Budget which stood at a little over Rs. 250 crores in 1948-49 stands today at over Rs. 400 crores. How do the common people get real advantage of this increased taxation? The defence expenditure which stood at about Rs. 146 crores in 1948-49 has increased progressively—Rs. 149 crores, Rs. 161 crores, Rs. 171 crores, Rs. 192 crores and so on—in succeeding years, and today we are having in our Budget an allotment of roughly Rs. 200 crores, that is, 45 per cent. of the Budget.

The cost of collection of taxes which stood at Rs. 7·7 crores in 1948-49 has progressively increased and now it is Rs. 28·39 crores in the coming year. And we are told that this is a Welfare State.

We saw in the papers the other day a reference to the Budget of People's China which was presented on the 12th February, and there, in spite of the fact that China is engaged in a war as far as the people of Korea are concerned—because the Chinese Volunteers have gone to participate in the war—59·24 per cent. of the Chinese Budget is being spent for economic and cultural development, while 22·38 per cent. of the Budget is being spent on defence.

In regard to defence, naturally we are proud of our Army, because we know that our men are a magnificent corps. There is no doubt about that But we know at the same time that, as far as the apparatus, the mechanism of the Army, is concerned, we continue the bad old inheritance of the British days, and as far as our equipment is concerned—I am sure we shall have a great deal more to say about it when the detailed discussion takes place on the Demands for the Ministry of Defence—but as far as our military equipment is concerned, we are hopelessly dependent upon something like junk from British and American sources. In regard to our Squadron of Destroyers what we find is that those ships which were going to be scrapped after World War II were re-painted and renovated and sold to us. God knows at what price. We have also nothing like a real defence in-

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dustry, and about this I would quote from the ***Eastern Economist,*** which said:

> "It has been a melancholy thing that since independence, no constructive plans for extending our defence industries have been put into operation. At the slightest provocation, defence purchasing missions are sent abroad and the dependence of the Indian Army on foreign industry is greater today than it was at the termination of World War II. The Government must see to it that our military potential is not placed at the mercy of foreign suppliers. This is a curious contrast between our independence in foreign industrial supependence in foreign policy and our dependence upon foreign industrial supplies on which in the last analysis our capacity to be independent must be based."

Also, in the Army we find a perpetuation of the old class and hierarchical divisions based particularly on racial discrimination. Now, racial discrimination is not there, but the class and hierarchical discrimination operates in a most disastrous fashion. I find, for example, that in regard to Junior Commissioned Officers all kinds of discriminatory practices are there. Of course, they are not the only people who are suffering from discrimination, but I have got here an order sent by the Officer Commanding, Army Headquarters, National Stadium Camp, New Delhi, dated August 1952, in regard to the observance of certain duties in connection with the *Vanamahotsava* Day. This is a sample of the fashion in which the J.C.Os. are treated and I shall read to you the kind of instructions that they got:

> "The J.C.Os. who are allotted trees but who fail to look after them will be liable to disciplinary action, which may amount to vacation of married quarters by them and sending their families away to their homes."

It is in connection with *Vanamahotsava* Day. *Vanamahotsava* is a very good thing to do, but this is the way in which they were treating their Junior Commissioned Officers. They were threatening them that if the trees did not happen to be planted, they would have to vacate all their married quarters and they would have to send away their wives and children, if they happened to be staying with them.

We find that as far as even the common people are concerned, the grossly under-estimated and sometimes rather hypothetical indices of the working class cost of living now something of the lot of the commonman. Shri Bansal who spoke earlier referred to the fact that there was an improvement in the working class cost of living, but he had to concede that Dr. S. P. Mookerjee was right when he said that there was no appreciable improvement in the working class cost of living. But I would say that there is no improvement when you really take into consideration the standard of life to which our people have been accustomed and to which our people have a right of expectation.

I would like to quote some figures from the Republic Number of the Economic Weekly of Bombay—quite a respectable publication as far as I can dent's Address we had a reference to living is computed in regard to Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi. We find that in November, 1952, which is the latest year for which figures are given, the index in Bombay was 330; in Calcutta 357; in Madras 335; in Kanpur 459 and in Delhi 374. Actually, this is a condition of things which certainly gives cause for very great anxiety on our part. Surely, we cannot be self-satisfied on the score of the cost of living of the working class showing certain so-called signs of improvement.

To cover up the bankruptcy of six years of Congress administration, the Finance Minister has tried to paint a very rosy picture. As in the President's Address we had a reference to all-round improvement, so has he referred to marked improvement in economic conditions. Now, this marked improvement in economic conditions appears to be a myth, which certainly should be exploded on the floor of the House. As far as the people are concerned, they know very well that it is a complete myth. The Finance Minister began his statement with the formulation that the last nine months have witnessed a marked improvement in the economic conditions of the country. The index number of wholesale prices of industrial raw materials which stood at 688 in June 1951 began steadily falling and came down to 580 by January 1952. Then followed the February-March slump, when the index came down to 424 by March 1952 and in December 1952 it stood at 421. This means that industrial raw materials fell by 39 per cent. from June 1951 and by 27 per cent. from the June 1952 level. On the other hand—and this is important—the index of whole-sale prices of manufactured articles stood at 405·6 in June 1951 and came down to 400·9 in January 1952. In December 1952 they stood at 367·6. This means that they fell by nine per cent. in December, 1952 as compared to June 1951 and by eight per cent. as compared with January 1952 level. So, the fact of the matter is that our peasants who grow cotton, tobacco and other commercial crops, have to part with their products, the products of their hard labour, at 39 per cent. less prices to those who have the monopoly control of the market. These monopoly controllers of the market were getting cotton, tobacco and other commercial crops at 39 per cent. lower price. Actually, however, this means that our peasants have been selling it at still lower prices, because, as you know, there are the middlemen who enter the bargain and as a result of it the prices which an actual producer gets are absolutely unrelated to the standard of life to which at least he has some little right of expectation. This is what I call plunder of the peasants: but our Finance Minister calls this in very respectable language as stabilisation of prices at lower levels.

He also spoke of the growth or increase of production. Textile mills, he said, produced 4,600 million yards. In the same breath he said that "the continuous maintenance of production at this level will, to some extent, depend on the quantity of cloth which can be exported". Now foreign markets are available for only one thousand million yards and then and then alone can our wonderful textile industry do something about their own interests. In general, consumption cannot be increased to more than nine yards or so per head.

He also referred to the food situation. Already reference has been made to famine conditions prevailing all over the places and the Finance Minister as a very good Maharashtrian is certainly very conscious of what is happening. The Finance Minister when he actually saw the famine conditions made a statement which already appeared in the Press. As far as I remember, it possibly was derived from his experience of famine conditions. He has said that he could get along with his planning operations better if his friends the Rajpramukhs behaved a little better and surrendered something of their dues so that he could get a few crores of rupees for the purpose of financing those operations which are absolutely essential in the interest of our country.

I must say in all sincerity that the Finance Minister also struck a note of warning. He said:

> "While the all round increase in production has been encouraging". He has to say it—after all he must, put a feather to his cap, "it would be rash to assume that all these trends will continue in the future."

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): He puts no cap.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Metaphorical cap.

That is his warning. Sugar production is expected to fall by three lakh tons or so. A number of other industries, he said, are also facing similar difficulties. Then, there is the increasing spectre of unemployment.

In the last session certain questions were asked in regard to unemployment, and it came out that things happen which are, to quote a statement of the expression of which the Prime Minister is very fond of, absolutely fantastic.

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): I hope it is a parliamentary term now.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You are experts in parliamentary phraseology.

Shri Syamnanadan Sahaya: Well could the Prime Minister cry aloud: "You hate me, but you imitate me".

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I do not mind the Prime Minister crying aloud; but when he cries havoc, it is exactly then that I say the time has come to put our foot down.

A look at the statistics supplied by the Employment Exchanges will convince any one. It came out during question hour last session that there are engineering graduates, there are medical graduates who are applicants, who want jobs, and yet jobs are not available. The hon. Mr. Giri said: "We shall look into the matter". Of course, they are looking into the matter. In the meantime millions of our people are unemployed. There is no getting away from the fact that the problem of unemployment is going to assume even bigger dimensions than it has done so far.

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We find in this context that the Finance Minister is presenting his Budget. Unemployment is stalking the land, but at the same time the talk about Welfare State is flourishing, just as it has been for the last five or six years

The Finance Minister of course could not conceive that on account of our tie-up with foreign imperialist interests, as far as our external trade is concerned we suffer a great deal. For example, our imports show an excess over exports, an excess of Rs. 6·5 crores for the whole of 1951. In the eleven months of 1952 ending with November imports exceeded exports by over Rs. 170 crores. The Finance Minister stated that this curtailment of credit facilities combined with the general decline in the international prices of a number of raw materials and other commodities tended to reduce the level of prices in the country, particularly in the early months of 1952. He said India's exports therefore showed a fall, while large payments had to be made for imports of raw cotton and food-payments for the former amounting to Rs. 79 crores and for the latter, that is food, to Rs. 121 crores.

In other words, if I may make my own commentary, the imperialists compelled us to sell our products, industrial raw materials at tremendously low prices, while they made us pay through the nose for their raw cotton and wheat. This is the much boosted American aid of which the Finance Minister had to give a kind of advertisement in his speech.

About the future he made a prognostication: "I think the coming months will not be as favourable as the last six months of 1952". And yet, in spite of this, in spite of the contraction of trade our Government will not explore the possibilities, for example, of developing our external trade with China, Soviet Union, with the People's Republics of Eastern Europe and certain other countries. You will laugh because you are flourishing in spite of the fact that we live in a crisis-ridden economy, and that crisis-ridden economy is reflected in the Budget.

I must have a few more minutes. Half an hour was the definite understanding.

This year there is no provision for any subsidy for imported food. We all remember how last year the Bombay working classes had to compel the Government to restore the food subsidy. This year it is already admitted that large wheat exporting countries, led by America, are demanding a price of 2·2 $ per bushel as against the maximum price of 1·8 $ that was in vogue as per agreement which is to expire on the 31st of March next. Government admits that imported rice is likely to cost them at least ten per cent. more than last year. So let us consider and imagine the condition of things which is facing us.

Secondly, the Finance Minister has taken credit for the recovery from Pakistan of two instalments of post-partition debt to India, one instalment representing a carry-over from this year. What I do not understand is when this sum of Rs. 18 crores has been transferred to the revenue Budget in this year from the capital Budget where it was credited last year. If this is a misconception, I would like it to be corrected.

Thirdly, the Finance Minister admits that the prospects of external trade, particularly, exports are very much more gloomy than they had been before. The net result of the analysis which I am trying hurriedly to give you is that while the common people have to pay through their nose the monopolists have to be subsidised and all sorts of special concessions have to be given to these interests which are hostile to the interests of the public. For example, exemption will be given from income-tax to the income earned by parent companies on their investment in other companies. Now we know very well that a few British companies and a few Indian monopoly houses, which are their auxiliaries, control the entire industry of this country and they act as firms of managing agents. They invest their funds in the shares of different companies and make fantastic profits. Exactly these people are reaping the tremendous benefits of this kind of exemption.

We find, therefore, the same bureaucratic administration and we find a niggardly sum of rupees two crores provided for so-called basic and social education. A magnificent sum of rupees one crore has been provided for the development of small-scale industries! The Economic Weekly of Bombay has in its latest issue compared this allocation of rupees one crore to small-scale industries to the allocation by the East India Company of Rs. five crores to the famine areas in 1776. It is not my comparison: you can verify it from the Economic Weekly of Bombay, latest number. The Finance Minister would say that the most important part of his Budget is the capital Budget. He said that the capital Budget has been framed with a view to the implementation of the Five Year Plan. A total outlay of Rs. 208 crores is budgeted for. Rs. 132 crores would be by way of loans to State Governments.

Here there are certain snags to which I want to make a reference. We find that the total outlay for the entire five year period is Rs. 2,069 crores, or Rs. 417 crores per year. Up to now we have spent Rs. 1,031 crores; 1950-51: Rs. 285 crores, 1952-53: Rs. 346 crores, 1953-54: Rs. 400 crores —including Rs. 225 crores from the Centre. In three years the expenditure, on the basis of an average should have been Rs. 1,242 crores. So already there is a gap of Rs. 211 crores being carried over. And the writing on the wall is not particularly pleasant for the years 1951 to 1954.

In the matter of small savings the figure for the three years is Rs. 135 crores. The Plan expects a total of Rs. 260 crores, or Rs. 52 crores per year. Already there is a gap of more than Rs. 15 crores as far as this particular item is concerned.

Then again the difficulty is there because you are not planning in the proper way, because you are not proceeding to control the profiteers, to prevent inflation. And that is why we find that the perspective is by no means pleasant. If you had real courage, a kind of guts, if you are to push the Plan through, a real plan, a plan for which the people would give their lives, then of course you can go forward in a different fashion than you have chosen to do. Crores of rupees are drained away by these foreign companies that supply these materials. I will give one example of how they operate. One of the coal companies, operated by Andrew Yule & Company, Calcutta, has a paid-up capital of Rs. 1,20,00,000. In five years, 1945—49, they made a net profit of Rs. 3,10,00,000. We do not proceed against them as expeditiously and as effectively as we ought to; and the result is we are in the soup and we are not in a position to push through our plans.

As far as interest charges on public debt are concerned we are paying a sum of rupees nine crores. In regard to public debt I shall quote the *Eastern Economist*, dated the 9th of November, 1951. There it is said:

> "India's record in international dealings and foreign loans is of the highest. Although we have power to discriminate against countries which discriminate against our people we have not always evoked such retaliatory measures. We have never defaulted on our foreign borrowings. Before our freedom our politicians frequently questioned the justice of many public loans, internal and external, and went so far as to think of repudiating them. But when they came into power, they did nothing of the sort. They quietly accepted them as liabilities of the country. India has paid every cent of external borrowings" —and you, Sir, have been in the Assembly for umpteen years, and you know it very well—"not only the amount used for economic aid, but also the amount spent on the wars of its own conquest and of even those waged for the conquest of other countries, with which India had nothing to do."

This is what the *Eastern Economist* of the 9th of November, 1951 said. We go on paying interest on public debt to the tune of rupees nine crores, and the rate will increase, because the world Bank is now asking for such rates of interest as 4¾ per cent. and 4½ per cent. I read yesterday a statement by the President of the Indian Council of Economic Affairs who said that not even a single loan in recent years—loans guaranteed by Government—has been raised at a rate of interest higher than four per cent; but in respect of loans taken from the International Bank, with the Government guarantee, for the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited and the Damodar Valley Corporation, interest is being paid at 4¾ and 4⅞ per cent. respectively. This is what comes from a very orthodox businessman, and, I suppose, a supporter of the Government.

I would say this is the kind of Budget we have got. We have got a plethora of foreign experts. I have nothing against them as foreigners, but we have had our own scientific people, our own Jagdish Bose, C. V. Raman, P. C. Ray, Mathur—who proposed the idea of setting up a factory where patterns could be copied and all kinds of devices could be multiplied. We do not give any thought or assistance to them. We have M. Visveswarayya who constructed the Sivasamudram Dam and people who constructed the Mettur Dam. We do not look upon them as people whose valuable services we ought to requisition. But we go out of the way and get phoney experts from outside.

That is why I say this is a Budget on which I possibly cannot say a good word. With all his Sanskrit learning the Finance Minister does not remember at least one adage which I wish

[**Shri H. N. Mukerjee**]

him to remember all the time. That is:

“ नाल्प सुखमवस्ति, भूमैव सुखम्

That is, happiness is not in petty things; it is in plenitude. Why do you not plan imaginatively, with real spirit? In that case, and that case alone, can you go ahead. That is why I tell you it is necessary for us to tackle things imaginatively. It is necessary for us to remember those days of our past which were really days of glory. I am reminded suddenly of those days when Mahatma Gandhi was our leader in the fight for freedom. They may laugh, but the real mantle of Gandhiji has not fallen on them. I have read—I did not have opportunities of first-hand information, which many of my friends might have had—but I have read that in the Sabarmati Ashram, at a time when Gandhiji was our man to match the mountains and the sea, at a time when he really represented the dignity of our country, it is that time I am speaking of—I am not speaking of the ugly little days which have come in-between—in those days, in the Sabarmati Ashram every morning would begin with the incantation of the sloka which says:

न त्वहं कामये राज्यं न स्वर्गं न पुनर्भवम
कामये दुःखतप्तानां प्राणिनामार्तिनाशनम् ॥

That is: "I do not want heaven; I do not want a Kingdom I do not want rebirth; what I want is the elimination of the suffering of the people."

What is it that these men of clay, of putrescent clay, are doing under the mantle of our freedom? They are small men. Because, if they had really been otherwise, they would have done other things, very different things, very heroic things, and would have produced a Budget very different from the Budget which my hon. friend the Finance Minister has presented.

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur Central): This is the time of the year when we take stock of what we have done in the past year and make programme for what we are going to do in future. The Finance Minister has in his concluding remarks said that the budget for the coming year has been framed against the background of the Five Year Plan. And I am sure the House would like to know to what extent progress has been made by the end of the Budget year, in the matter of the achievement envisaged by the Plan. I take it when he says that this Budget has been framed against the background of the Five Year Plan, that this is a step towards a Welfare State—from a regulatory State. The President in his speech said:

> "We aim at a Welfare State in which all the people of this country are partners, sharing alike the benefits and the obligations. So long as there is poverty and unemployment, a section of the community derives no benefit from this partnership."

This Five Year Plan has been described as a realistic Plan. I shall dwell only upon one point, that is, from the yardstick of the speech of the President that we aim at a Welfare State in which all the people of this country are partners, sharing alike the benefits and the obligations. When I examine this Plan from this point of view, I feel this Plan is not going to give benefits alike to an overwhelmingly large number of the population. I shall not give any figure or statistics but most of the people of our country will remain unemployed, will remain under-fed, will remain under-clothed even after the Five Year Plan is implemented. After 25 years it has been said that the national income will be doubled. Now what is the national income? This national income is taken on the basis of the income derived from all classes of people and then *per capita* income is arrived at and we say the *per capita* income of the country is so much. There is a great lacuna and a great snag in this because here in India, when we take the *per capita* income, the overwhelmingly large number of people have got practically no income. They have got no employment. They remain even under-fed. They became a burden on other people. When we find this state of affairs, we cannot say that this national income can be a yardstick to measure how far our country has developed in giving at least to meet the minimum requirements of all.

There has been great discussion on this Five Year Plan. Scholastic exposition had been given on different matters but the point which I want to make out is how it has benefited, how it is going to benefit in future and at what time it is going to give at least food, clothing and employment to all our people. This is the main point on which I would like to invite the attention of the Government. Let them acquaint us as to when and at what time that will be achieved. I had put a question in Parliament as to when all the people will get employment. I did not mean thereby that each and every man should be employed but that the overwhelmingly large number of people should be employed. That was the idea of my question and the answer I got was that it will all depend upon how we progress. The Planning Commission were sitting for two or three years and they made out this plan. This is the most important point which should have been foremost in their minds and on which they should have come to a particular conclusion that within such and such time, we shall be able to give employment to the overwhelmingly large number of our population and that they will at least be fully fed and clothed, other amenities apart. There is nothing by way of achievement in this Five Year Plan during the last two years. They had given no idea as to what we shall achieve after 25 years when it is said that our national income will be doubled. From this it appears that so far as the Planning Commission is concerned, they have not been able to find out any solution of this problem. It seems that we have adopted ourselves to this state of affairs and we have shut our eyes to the suffering millions who remain under-fed, under-clothed and unemployed. Apart from eating and clothing, employment is also a most important item in the life of a man. If a man who is employed gets half a meal, it is better than one who is idle and even gets full meal. I will quote one instance. When there were famine and flood in Dharbanga district, our Prime Minister had gone that side. At that time we had imported food and some help was given by the Centre to that area. Our Prime Minister had gone there to see as to how those things were being distributed. In certain places some arrangements were made to show the Prime Minister as to how these things were being distributed. At that time, I also went that side. I also went into the villages where no such arrangement was made and there were many people who did not get any help at all. I shall give you an idea of two different places. In one village I found that people were working. They were making their own clothes. Some were weavers. Others were spinning and weaving. They said that they were not getting their full meal with this labour but still they were getting something, and I found some cloth also on their bodies. In some other village where I went I saw ten members of a family. All of them were lying naked. Three or four children were suffering from smallpox. I went at about 10 p.m. In that village they had no work. I asked some people, "Why do you not go there and take something?" They said they had no money to purchase. Then I said, "Well, they are selling at a very concessional rate and they are distributing also free." They replied that they felt ashamed to go there without any occupation. They said that they would like to get some permanent work, whereby they can remain employed and even get half meal thereby.

Sir, I do not want to go further with this story. You have rung the bell. The point which I want to make out is that unless some employment is found out immediately on a mass basis by whatever means it may be—we may not like the *Sarvodaya* plan, we may not like the *khadi* programme—but if we do not find any plan to give employment we should give trial to the progamme which has been given by the Father of our Nation. In the speech of the President it has been hinted that an All India Village Industries Board has been established and legislation undertaken to raise a fund for technical development and research for the village and cottage industries. In this respect I want to point out one thing. It has been said that funds have been set apart and legislation is going to be undertaken and that that fund will be utilised for research for village and cottage industries. This is a very good thing; and we should find out some means by which these village industries can be made to stand on their own legs and produce competitive things. But we should not forget one thing. We have been slaves for the last 300 years. (*An Hon. Member*: Much more than that.) Our people have forgotten all their hereditary occupations. You will remember that when the Britishers wanted to introduce their goods here, they went to the extent of cutting the hands of our most excellent spinners. Therefore, merely starting a *Khadi* Board for mere research will not help us and will not do anything. We must immediately start giving employment on main basis and use their products, be they of inferior quality and expensive. I remember the *Swadeshi* days of 1905 and 1906. Whenever there was a cry for the *Swadeshi* movement and these things, Government used to start something and do something for *Swadeshi*. In Patna also, I remember, a cottage industry was started and it is still going on as a show. This time I had an opportunity of going there to see whether any State trading can be done for that. Nothing has been done to increase its production and consumption. Simply it is a sort of a show. So I do not know what this *Khadi* Board will do. If you really want to introduce village and cottage industries, you must take drastic measures. It is said that the believers in *khadi* must prove its utility and that it can stand on its own legs. It is said that our military people cannot use our own

[Shri Jhunjhunwala]

products, especially I refer to *khadi*. If that is the case, the work of the Cottage and Village Industries Board will remain as a show exhibition. It will not develop; it will not do anything. If at all you want to develop cottage industries and village industries, we must use their products in preference to others. Just as Mr. Mahtab said just now, on one side we are trying to develop our own cottage industries and this and that; on the other hand, we are importing even foreign cloth today. In *khadi*, we can prepare the best mulmul and other things; but we shall not take it.

An Hon. Member: It is not good for the military.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: We can prepare coating and other things; underwear, etc., for the military. I would like to know from the Finance Minister and the Government how long these conditions will continue and we should have an idea when this distress will go. This problem of unemployment is a serious one. Apart from giving them no bread, it is a great mental distress to them.

Within this short space of time, one cannot develop all the points. But, I just want to impress upon the Government one thing. In the Five Year Plan, Government should give the top priority to full employment by whatever method it may be. If they have no plan with them, let us go back to the plan of 1920 and work according to that. In 1905 when we used to purchase *swadeshi dhoti* and mill made *dhoti*, they were so coarse and so difficult to wear. But, if we had not worn those things, paying a higher price for them, this mill industry and other things would not have prospered like that. If you really want our village industries and cottage industries to prosper, we must use those things and those things alone in preference to others.

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad Distt.—North): I thank you for calling upon me to participate in this debate. I congratulate the Finance Minister on the Budget that he has presented to the House. The Budget has been well received by all sections of the people. That itself is proof of the fact that it is a very good and satisfactory Budget. The estimates of expenditure for the current year exceeded the estimates of revenue receipts by several crores. In this state of affairs, one would have expected that the Finance Minister would maintain a sort of *status quo* so far as income-tax was concerned. But, then, he has come out with relief to the middle class people who have been the greatest sufferers during recent years. As regards imports, he has raised the duties on articles of luxury, and reduced the duties on export of articles which were suffering because of lowering of market prices. The export duty on jute sacking has been reduced from Rs. 180 to Rs. 75 per ton. That would stimulate our export trade and affect our trade balance also. Relief has also been given in other matters. So far as I can see, the Budget is one which gives satisfaction to every class of people and to every part of the country.

A great deal has been said that it does not make any provision for giving employment to all classes of people and that there is no provision in it for the relief of unemployment. An approved method by which unemployment is reduced is either to start big industries or generally help the industrial development of the country. But if you start big industries, that also creates a certain amount of unemployment. If we do not start big industries, some method has to be found for giving employment to a vast number of people. Now there are the river valley projects which are large scale projects, and so will provide employment for a large number of people. Similarly the community projects also will give employment to a large number of people living in the rural areas. These are the only methods by which the problem of unemployment can be solved, and I do not see any other method for solving it.

My hon. friend who spoke just before me impressed on us a great deal the necessity for the development of *khadi*. That certainly is one of the factors which will enable a considerable number of persons to get employed, but then it provides only a partial remedy, because it affords only part-time employment. If every man began to spin and make *khadi*, he would be able to produce *khadi* which will be sufficient for his own use. So, if that is done, it will be a sort of part-time employment, but it cannot solve the problem of the country. The problem of the country at present is not cloth only, but shortage of food, industries, machinery, equipment needed for defence, etc. The solution that I would like to suggest for the solving of this unemployment problem is that there should be man-power planning. Government should start on a census of manpower planning. In every village a census should be taken of the various persons who are capable of doing any particular kind of work. There will be technical men amongst them, and there will be non-technical men as well; there might be educated men, and there might be labourers. If we could assess the manpower available, then the chances are that we shall be able to solve most of our problems. If we can persuade people to devote at least two hours a week, of their spare time, for public purposes, then we shall have at least 20 crores of hours per week, and in this way most of the problems facing the country can be solved. And to a certain extent, the deficit that we find in the Planning Commission's Report, could be resolved, and the country could go on and become more and more prosperous. *Khadi* can help to a certain extent, in solving the unemployment problem, and the small and large industries are also solving it to some extent. But it cannot be wholly solved, unless we resort to a plan for manpower utilisation.

We have staked a great deal on the first Five Year Plan that we have produced. The Planning Commission is to be congratulated on the great pains they have taken in evolving this Plan. I feel that the Plan is being implemented. At least one dam in the Damodar Valley Project is ready, and has succeeded in irrigating about 5,000 acres of land. In other river valley projects also, much progress has been made, and so far as I can see, we are proceeding according to the Plan. It may be that we have not yet got the exact details as to what extent we have succeeded in the implementation. But then the overall picture that is presented to us in the Explanatory Memorandum shows clearly that so far as the great river valley projects are concerned—they are perhaps the biggest in the world—we are proceeding according to the Plan, and all the schemes are well under way.

In the case of large industries also, we have made good progress, and we are producing goods which we had never been able to produce before. Small industries are also succeeding, and so far as the over-all picture of the industrial sector is concerned, it cannot be said that the industries are not doing as well as they were doing before. Certainly, we are producing more and to that extent, we are solving the unemployment problem.

A great deal is being said that the Five Year Plan has failed to enthuse the people. It is true that the matter has not been presented to them in the way it should have been, with the result that most of the people do not actually know how the whole thing is working, and what it is going to do for them.

In Uttar Pradesh, there was a scheme in which every person was required to give two hours of his spare time, for public purposes, for one week beginning on the 26th January. I had occasion to visit one of the villages, and we were about 20 men. We went to the village where certain things were to be done. When we started doing them, the villagers just stood by and looked at us. They did not seem to realise that they had any part to play in the work. The next day when we went there, the same thing happened. The day after that, we found that only a few men came up to join us in the work. Then we thought that we must devise some other means in order to enable some people to understand what really was expected of them. We accordingly decided to hold a meeting the same evening, and at that meeting there were about 40 to 50 villagers present: we explained to them the spirit underlying the scheme, and then they understood it. When we went for the work the next day, we found that there were about 135 men coming up for the work. Of course, this spirit did not continue for the rest of the week. On that day there were 135 people, but on the next day, there were about a hundred only, but then this had really caught the imagination of these people. I think the first thing that is required to enthuse the people is to have some enthusiasm in yourself. If you have some enthusiasm in yourself, then it will be possible to enthuse others. Besides, I do not think that there is great need for any great deal of enthusiasm to be created or persuasion to be done. The villager knows which side of the bread is buttered, and once you tell him that he is going to get good seed, sufficient water, good advice, good manure, etc. which he really needs, then the gain or the profit motive will be induced, and he will acquire the necessary enthusiasm. And the result will be that the enthusiasm which is now so much lacking will be there for the asking. The same is true in the case of the community projects as well. If once this is done, I do not think there will be any difficulty in kindling up their enthusiasm any further. So, the talk that is going on about the lack of enthusiasm etc., among the people is mostly by people who do not have any enthusiasm in themselves, and it is therefore that they think that the enthusiasm will be lacking. My submission is that the Plan is going to succeed: no doubt, there may be some difficulties for some States to provide the necessary funds, but I do not think the Plan will suffer for lack of funds, because the Centre has provided all the funds of its share for the purpose. My experience is

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that once you start a good thing going, the chances are that it will be carried through, in spite of the fact that there may be no funds available or visible at the moment.

There is one other point, which I would like to touch upon, and that relates to the district from which I come, namely Farrukhabad, which is connected with Shahjahanpur by a road which is about 45 miles long. There are two rivers intervening, the Ganga and the Ramganga. These two rivers run in the State, almost parallel for a considerable distance. The area between these two rivers is just about a few miles wide, and its length is about 25 to 30 miles. There is an area of about 75 or 100 miles which is at least every alternate year flooded by both these rivers, the Ganga and Ramganga. The result is that hundreds of thousands of tons of foodgrains are wasted and damaged every alternate year, if not every year. The Planning Commission's Report says that they are going to build about 43 bridges throughout the country. If they could build two bridges—one on the Ramganga and the other on the Ganga, in Farrukhabad and Shahjahanpur, the chances are that this area would be considerably developed and foodgrains would be easily moved from this area to Farrukhabad and Shahjahanpur, and the food problem also would, to a certain extent, be solved.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): I wish to state at the very outset that I am not an expert or an economist, but only a layman. I just wish to place before this House a few points as to how this Budget has impressed me as serving the purposes which the framers have kept before them.

I found as I was listening to the speech of the Finance Minister that he has been kind to the overburdened middle class people and has raised the exemption limits to Rs. 4,200 and Rs. 8,400. Well. I really wish, personally, that he had made it into a round sum of 4,500 and 9,000 at least. Possibly it would have added a few more hundreds of cases resulting in some loss to the State. But what surprised me was one sentence which he uttered. Well, I do not really mean that there is anything wrong in it, but it did not appear to me to be in the proper spirit. He said that he does this not so much to relieve the trouble or the weight of taxation, but to give more time for his own officers so that they will be able to go to richer assessees and then increase the State revenue. The words 'give greater attention to the cases of the bigger assessees and improve the revenue from income-tax' are liable to be misunderstood, as a policy in favour of a drive for more income. That is, more taxation, not necessarily unjust. But that is a very strict way of looking at that matter. That is the only thing that surprised me. I do not wish to find fault with it, but I thought it was unnecessary.

Then, I wish to say that so far as the appointment of the Taxation Enquiry Commission is concerned, it is really welcome. We have seen by experience that the incomes of all States as well as of the Centre are not as of old, but multiples of the old incomes—twice, thrice and so on. Therefore, you would find that the taxation has been very heavy in the country. An enquiry into that matter would certainly be welcome, because the taxation structure may be examined, and a rational and proper incidence of taxation might well be the result of it. The Finance Minister naturally thought that the labours of this Commission or Committee would take two years. But as we know, the way in which Government goes on, the recommendations to be made and the matter being constantly considered, the recommendations cannot really be given effect to within the Plan period. There appears to be a design to delay the thing. The process of coming to a decision to appoint a Commission has itself taken time and we know that it is not likely that the benefit will be enjoyed by the people, even if it should recommend....

Shri Tyagi: It must be a thorough enquiry.

Shri Raghavachari: Very, very thorough !.

I only wish to say that I am not all happy about that matter, as it is not likely that within the Plan period you will be able to give effect to this. That is the only thing.

Then, we go to another aspect. One thing that struck me was this deficit financing. As I said, I am not an economist. But I have only a few impressions gathered by the experience of life. After all, the orthodox view appears to be that this is a dangerous experiment. Probably under certain circumstances when unemployment is rampant in the country or when things cannot be produced because there is dearth of money or there are certain other circumstances justifying it, Governments may resort to it. But now why has it been resorted to? The Planning Commission, as some friend was saying, has set the standard or the limit, that is, of about 290 or 300 crores. That is not a Bible—because the Planning Commission has set this standard, therefore, the Finance Minister may roam about within this limit! The real thing is a fall in the level of prices. In fact a Government, and the Indian Government particularly, as I understand it, should welcome a fall in prices of commodities consumed by people. In fact the cry in the country has always been that things have gone up in price and we are really in trouble because of that. I do not find in this Budget speech anywhere that there has been a policy to bring down the prices. In fact, the attempt made now by this inflation by treasury Bills or something like that, is calculated to proceed in the other direction. I am afraid probably things may still go further up in price.

The other point that I wish to submit is that in spite of the fact that so many crores may possibly be spent, it is not that it is going to be uniformly spread over the whole country. You are going to spend these crores of rupees in small pockets or particular places or regions. It is concentrated on these little pockets, and not necessarily spread over the whole country, and you do not really expect that it is meant to procure or secure employment to all people, unemployed or under-employed, though it may result in a portion of relief being afforded to them.

Then the fall in the prices, it appears to me,—though of course, they are fluctuating—according to the figures that we have, is more a symptom of the coming depression after the war. That is my own impression. The Finance Minister has cautiously said that he will be constantly watching the position and that other measures will be taken to prevent suffering. But once you start this way, possibly before you take steps to set the matter right, in the interval, suffering will be the consequence. That is the only point I wish to stress.

I now come to our policy of industrialisation. I only wish to state one particular point and it is this. Though Planning Commission talks of encouragement of small scale industries, it has not really been doing anything serious in that way. Only one crore of rupees has been provided in this year's Budget and other friends have commented that it is very little. Apart from that, as far as the small scale industries are concerned, the only action that is before Parliament is that you have introduced a Bill about handloom and *Khadi*. If you examine the purpose for which the amount is going to be spent, you see that it is for new researches and some reliefs and so on. These things appear more to be a process of appearing to be busy. A man might satisfy himself by saying, 'I have done something; I have brought this Bill'. He does not really bring any benefit to the country. In fact, when compared with the amount of unemployment that prevails throughout the country in our villages, what is the aid that your one crore could do for the *Khadi* and handloom Industry? It is just to give some satisfaction to your conscience that you have done something. What I wish to say is that the industries are so being developed in the country that you are simply helping the concentration of these production centres and the concentration is in the hands of the few capitalists only. I do not want to adduce arguments. The whole thing is fashioned after other countries and not peculiarly fashioned to suit the needs of our country. In fact, war or no war, production or no production, the ordinary man wants some occupation which gives him something with which he could purchase his food and his clothing. We find that this important requisite of the country is not satisfactorily concentrated upon. My own humble impression is that the gentlemen in charge of this department may not have the absolute belief that the small industries must really be helped. The feeling of sincerely following it up or the urge to do so could come out of men who are really convinced of it. I wish to stress that this should be done with that determination.

What is the meaning of making researches today? There are other countries which have solved this problem and you have today practically a mania for experts. You are bringing them from all parts of the world. But why do you not go to Japan, a country which has specialised in village industries, in small scale industries, in cottage industries, in agricultural industries? Our Agriculture Minister, is spending large time over advertising the Japanese methods of paddy cultivation. Why not the Industries Minister go on doing something about the Japanese method of small scale industry? I personally like to appeal to the Government that it is worth while for them to spend money in inviting some experts from that cheap country rather than go to the costly West.

This is so far as industries are concerned. Then there is one other point which I should like to stress and it is this. The fundamental basis on which you have located the community projects is to start them at places where

[Shri Raghavachari]

there are facilities for increased production of agricultural things and other commodities. In fact, that is one point of view. You are anxious that the money you spend must give some results, which you must be able to show to the people to gain their confidence. I am not finding fault with that. But you must devise some other kind of community project meant for scarcity areas. I come from a scarcity area, that is, the famine-stricken Rayalaseema. Famine has now spread all through the country. It is in Maharashtra, here in Rajasthan, in Bengal and other places and even in Mysore. My request to the Government is, please do concentrate upon improving those areas where there is need for improvement. What is the use of your improving a place where there are facilities already? Therefore, you must concentrate on scarcity areas and get more funds. My suggestion is that you have provided so much for minor irrigation, so much for backward classes, so much for scarcity areas and other kinds of things; pool all these sums together and then think of some kind of project for these scarcity areas. It will be an insurance against the recurrence of famine. You do not know how many crores of rupees you are wasting over temporary relief. I say, think of having a long range policy.

Then, one word more and that is this. I want to give my impressions as I have listened to the proceedings of this House that there has been an amount of wasteful expenditure in administration. I want to suggest economy. I do not want to suggest this economy with a view to finding fault with the administration. My only desire is that you must be aware of what is going on. I have found that whenever criticism comes from this side,—sometimes it is irritating no doubt, but as Members in charge of the Government you must feel that you should give no room for such a feeling in the country that money is being wasted. You must not only appear to be doing something, but you must really do something to stop it.

Last year—I do not know in what connection—Mr. Tyagi told us that 2½ to 3½ crores of retrenchment is going to be effected. This year there is nothing about this retrenchment at all. I have been reading the reports of various Committees. Horrible disclosures are made. It is no doubt *post mortem* examination. The patient cannot be brought to life. But still why do you not take action against people found to have mismanaged the affairs? During the course of the Committees' investigations, every time, we find some obstacles thrown in their way.

The other day I was reading about the Railway Board. I was shocked to find that the Board is screening people rather than handing them over.

I will finish in a minute, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already taken 17 minutes.

Shri Raghavachari: Therefore the whole thing appears to be your unpreparedness to look into things and correct them. I want to appeal to the Finance Minister, with his administrative experience, 'You please give a little more attention and your time, if you can spare, to block these leakages and this wastage. You may find crores for the Budget and in this process crores are slipping and not being effectively used'. I would particularly stress upon the Government to take care and not feel touchy on this. Do not promote officers, against whom action is really due, to higher posts of more responsibility, and make the people feel that you are serious about public funds. You can only win the confidence of the people and the public when you are known to have not sympathised with a man who is found playing with the funds of the public.

Shri Bogawat (Ahmednagar South): I must thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity because I got this opportunity after a very long time since last June. I congratulate the Finance Minister for he is really a 'Chintamani' of India and he is taking one bold step after another. We find in the present circumstances, the present Budget is a very satisfactory one. If you look to the economic condition of the country, you find that we are facing so many difficulties. After partition, there were so many natural calamities and if we go through the record of the past four or five years, we do find adverse balance of payments, and, except one year, every year there was deficit. If I can give these figures, the House will be convinced that the Finance Minister in spite of so many difficulties and odds has put his Budget before the House in a very satisfactory way.

I shall now give some figures. The deficit on account of adverse balance of payments in 1948 was Rs. 36 crores. In 1949, it was Rs. 135 crores. Only in 1950, there was a surplus of Rs. 57 crores, but in 1951 it fell down to Rs. 30 crores. Only in 1950 there was surplus of 30 crores and there have been so many calamities of nature. In

1952, the Finance Minister took a bold step in stopping the subsidy. This year, he has taken the bold step of raising the income-tax limit. He has also given other reliefs to several classes. This year there is no burden on the common man, and about 70,000 families are saved from income-tax. These belong to the lower middle class. Similarly, the Finance Minister has given relief in regard to corporation tax.

But my main point is that only about Rs. 34½ crores are proposed to be spent on the backward classes, refugees, the handloom industry and the *khadi* industry etc. If we are to decentralise our economy, such steps should be taken year after year. It cannot be done all of a sudden. We must pay more attention to basic education. Unless we do that, our culture cannot be improved. Only Rs. two crores have been allotted for this purpose this year. Some more money ought to be allotted.

As regards the handloom industry, the weavers are in a pitiable condition. In many places, they are begging. Their condition is going from bad to worse. More attention should be paid to them. If we do not save these people, and do not give them more facilities, they cannot lead a proper life. My humble submission therefore is that we want to encourage cottage and small-scale industries. Government should as a duty make all purchases of cloth in *khadi*. No other cloth should be bought by the Central or State Governments. We are not still doing this, and in spite of the recommendations of several persons, *khadi* is not encouraged. Similarly, the money allotted for backward classes and for basic education should be increased.

Then I come to our economy. It cannot be sound unless there is increase in production. Only when this happens, there will be better standards of living. The Finance Minister has referred to increased production of jute, cotton, steel, coal, cement, paper, caustic soda, power alcohol, plywood etc. I want to say that our economy depends on production. Unless we increase production, our economy cannot be sound. The Finance Minister has taken a bold step in regard to jute by reducing the duty from Rs. 175 to Rs. 80. But let me point out that our export and import policy has a very material bearing on our economic growth. The Finance Minister, I have been noting, has been very careful in this respect, I have here figures of exports and imports for several years, but I do not want to take up the time of the House by quoting them. My simple point is that unless we increase our exports and decrease our imports, we cannot have a sound economy. The Finance Minister has taxed luxury articles. It pains me to see in this capital city that so many of our ladies wear luxury articles imported from foreign countries. My eyes are sore with seeing ladies wearing lipstick. We should ban import of these luxury articles. Otherwise, there will be no improvement. Not only should the duty on foreign luxury articles be increased, but the articles themselves should be banned, so that we can meet our requirements from our own country. In some hotels in Delhi, I find that in addition to males, females also drink wine. It is a very painful thing.

As regards the Five Year Plan, it will of course develop our industries and bring about an improvement in regard to food and other articles. But I want to suggest that as regards Maharashtra, which has been subjected to famine, not much care has been taken. It is completely neglected. Famines occur there year after year. During the last thirty or forty years, there have been a dozen famines. Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur etc. have had a very bad time. There are many projects there—to mention only one, there is the Kokdi project—which if put through will be very useful, particularly as regards Poona, Ahmednagar and Sholapur. It is called "the granary of the Deccan", but the State Government has not taken up any of the important projects in Maharashtra. I request the Centre to exert pressure and see that they are taken up. Due to famine, several crores of people suffer. The damage is more than Rs. 15 crores in Ahmednagar itself. There is also death of cattle. Cattle are sold to butchers. The people there are like moving skeletons. Several thousands have deserted their villages. If they are to be saved from misery, hunger, disease and death, they should not be neglected. They have been neglected up till now, but the Finance Minister should do his best to see that the projects are taken up very soon.

6 P.M.

I want to make one or two suggestions regarding our Defence. After partition we have got very long Defence coastlines, for the protection of which a powerful Navy is very necessary. We are not masters of our own waters. We should also develop our Air Force, which is very essential in modern warfare. We have not sufficient numbers of aeroplanes or jet fighters and unless we have them, we cannot be very sure of our Defence.

[Shri **Bogawat**]

I had to say much about Defence, but as time is short, I have to summarise it by saying that unless we build a strong Defence Force, it is not possible to save our country.

With these few suggestions, I humbly submit that the present Budget is a very good Budget and the Finance Minister has done his best.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The broad points covered by this Bill are two: the main point is that it seeks to replace Section 3A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934. The scheme is much the same, but there is a slight difference. Section 3A of the Indian Tariff Act expires on the 28th of March 1953. The life of it is only for two years and the two years will expire on the 28th of March. The present intention is that the provision of this particular section should be part of the statute permanently.

I know, that it raises in the minds of some hon. Members certain doubts as to whether Government is seeking to depart from an established precedent laid down and take more powers to be exercised in a manner which will prejudice the consumer interests in this country. After all if Government seeks to give protection in advance of the permission that this House would extend to such protection, it might not have the advantages of canvassing the benefits or otherwise of the protection to be granted, which is only possible in a House of this nature. It is also agreed—it is a thing with which I totally agree personally—that the consumer interest is a paramount factor in the granting of protection.

I might at once admit that when this provision was brought in first two years back, I did have serious misgivings. For one thing, the Government policy in regard to protection was not very clear at that moment. Whatever might be the personal views of individual Members of Government today the policy of protection has come to be accepted. The statement made by the authors of the Fiscal Commission, that it was not a matter whether Government was wedded to a policy of protection, but all that was necessary was only to examine the quantum of protection, is coming to be more true even in the policy of Government. I think it is a policy which the House has more or less been insisting on that our industries must develop and whatever sacrifice we should make for that purpose should be made.

Speaking for myself, I am a very strong protagonist of the consumer interest. I do feel that while we want development and we want development very quick, in a country with notoriously low standards of living, the consumption propensity being what we call a matter of very high marginal rate, the moment purchasing power diminishes the standard of living goes down rapidly. A country with a backward population has got a very high marginal rate of consumption propensity. That being so, we should safeguard the consumer interests.

After all, all these plans that we now envisage are only for one purpose, namely, to raise the standard of living and anything that the Government or this House does in depressing it, though it might be for very good reasons, will defeat the very purpose of all our plans and efforts. Therefore, looking at a proposal of this nature from the consumers' point of view, I quite agree with any hon. Member that might make that proposition before this House that the consumer interests must be safeguarded.

However, as I said there is the accepted policy of Government to encourage industries. The position has slightly changed since the amendment of the Tariff Act two years back in that while at that time we had an *ad hoc* body called the Tariff Board with a very temporary existence, its life being extended from time to time, Government having accepted the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission, we have now a Tariff Commission which is a statutory body and which has come to stay for all time. That puts a slightly different emphasis on the need for Government implementing the Tariff Commission's recommendations as quickly as possible. Today the Tariff Commission has on hand a number of enquiries and a number of reviews. The House has complained in the past whenever we brought a measure of this nature that the proceedings of the Tariff Commission have been extremely dilatory and that the relief afforded is not quick. I should say that we are trying our best to accelerate the work of the Tariff Commission. All that only goes to show that we feel that dilatoriness on the part of Government in giving effect to the recommendations of the Tariff Commission should not add further burden on the industry which we want to develop. So the emphasis that we put on a measure of this nature two years back, that we would like to have it only for a temporary period, because of the temporary nature of the body itself which was giving protection and also the fluidity of the policy of Government does not now hold good. Therefore, the first submission that I am making to this House is that section 3A should become a permanent part of the statute.

Then comes this question of safeguards. The amending Bill will indicate that the provisions have been so changed that instead of the necessity of the Government introducing a Bill within fifteen days of issue of a notification if Parliament is sitting, or within fifteen days after the re-assembly of Parliament, this merely says that a Bill should be introduced as soon as may be during the next session. I venture to submit that it is not the desire of Government in any way to augment its own powers. There are certain practical difficulties which have a bearing on the work of the House about which I would like to dilate at some length. This is the first measure that we have brought under the provisions of section 3A. It is possible that we might have three or four Bills during this session. Hon. Members of this House will understand that the Chair has been so good as to give away an hour from the very serious work of this House in order to accommodate this Bill because of the urgent nature of the decision to be gone into. During this session, which may perhaps continue till the middle of May or perhaps even longer, I have got four similar measures. I venture to submit, in all humility, that it is an undue strain on the House to consider four separate measures. What is sought to be done by this amendment is to club all these four measures together and to bring it during this session. That is the idea.

It is pointed out to me by my hon. friend Mr. A. C. Guha that while the intentions are all right, it does not clearly indicate that if any notification is issued during this session the Bill should be introduced in this session, because the wording says "next session", and it does not say expressly that the Bill is to be introduced during the session if Parliament is in session at the time the notification is issued. But the purpose will be the same. I think he has tabled an amendment in this respect, and if the Chair permits and the House agrees I have no objection to accept it. Though it does not alter the purport of the clause, it certainly seeks to clarify the intention of the House if it is going to give its imprimatur to this proposal.

Then the other question is there is a proviso in the original section, which is due to lapse, which stated that "where for any reason a Bill as aforesaid does not become law within two months from the date of its introduction in Parliament, the notification shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period of two months". What will happen in this particular case is that if for reasons of exigencies of business we introduce a Bill towards the end of the session—and what Government would like is that the Bill should be finalised and passed—but if something happens and it is not passed and the House adjourns, the Bill will be hanging fire. So a condition of that nature, with the slight flexibility that we now intend to put into the section, will also have a qualifying provision that it should be taken up immediately after the House meets again. My hon. friend Mr. A. C. Guha felt that though it was not absolutely necessary that a provision should be put in to say that a Bill must be taken up within a particular time, because the Constitution enjoins that no period of six months should elapse between two sessions, the obligation is there on the part of the Government to bring a Bill before the House and have it passed. That is what my hon. friend Mr. A. C. Guha mentioned. I quite agree that being human beings, and being subject to take advantage of exigencies, we should not resist any attempt on the part of this House to put it in clear terms that there must be a period within which the Government must face the House and get the Bill through. So I am quite willing to accept any amendment which will indicate that a period of six months will be the longest period of life that the Government may give for a Bill of this nature. Having introduced it, it does not mean that the Government divest themselves of their responsibility and that the protection operates indefinitely whether the Bill is taken into consideration or not. If the amendment of Mr. Guha is accepted, automatically the protection will come to an end within a period of six months.

That, in substance, is the amendment proposed in regard to section 3A.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

In regard to the third clause of this Bill, hon. Members, I have no doubt, would have read the report of the Tariff Commission in regard to ball bearings. The report is a very interesting one in that the industry which the enquiry seeks to cover is an important one. It may be that since there is only one concern in operation and there is only one concern which is beginning to operate or has made proposals to go into operation, a protection was not necessary. But the policy of the Government being what it has been all along, namely to encourage these concerns to develop, some kind of assurance of protection was necessary.

The House will recognize that the quantum of protection is not something new. It is merely a conversion. The goods covered, to a very large extent, are subject to the same duty which they pay now as revenue duty. All that has been done is to seek to convert it to a protective duty. And the only concession that this conversion gives to the industry is that if at any future time there is dumping by somebody and the industry is precariously perched, the Government may give some kind of relief immediately, which the Tariff Act empowers the Government to do. In actual fact, the provisions of clause 3 merely seek to stratify, or rather bring within the protective wing of the law, a duty which is now in existence as a revenue duty. And in regard to the reasons why the Tariff Commission accepted this recommendation hon. Members, I have no doubt, who are interested would have read the recommendations of the Tariff Commission, which are fairly clear, that the need for this assurance to the industry was there. And in so doing they felt that the duty which was there as revenue duty was ample and that there need be no increase in the duty than what is envisaged by the revenue authorities.

That, more or less, brings me to the end of my story. As I said before, I would once again like to say—in order to remove or dispel any impression that hon. Members of this House might have in regard to the intentions of the Government—I would like to reassure them once again that there is no intention on the part of Government to bypass Parliament. So far as I am concerned, provided the business of the House will permit, I would certainly like to place any case for protection before the House and get its approval. But at the same time, as the House will also agree, if I have four measures in respect of which I issue four notifications, it is only fair and proper to the House itself that there should be one Bill to cover all of them instead of four Bills, as would be the case if the original provisions of section 3A continue to operate. With the safeguards proposed by my hon. friend Mr. A. C. Guha, if his amendment is accepted and if you permit him to move it, I think the position so far as the House is concerned is very well covered.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I know the amendment to which the hon. Minister referred?

Mr. Chairman: I have not received it so far.

Shri K. K. Basu: That is why we do not know.

Shri A. C. Guha (Santipur): The hon. Minister has practically forestalled me. He has repeatedly referred to me, because I had some discussion with him. Yet I should admit that I have not been feeling very happy over this Bill.

First of all, with regard to this provision of introducing a Bill within fifteen days of notification, I do not know what practical difficulty there can be to abandon it and make it as lax as the present amending Bill seeks to put it. I can understand the difficulty of getting a Bill passed soon now in the House because it has always a crowded programme. It may be difficult to get a Bill passed in time but I do not think there might have been much practical difficulty in introducing a Bill within 15 days after the notification if the House was in session or within 15 days after the assembling of the House if the House was not sitting at the time of the notification. Anyhow, when we are confronted with these practical difficulties, I do not like to rub the point much. I expect that with the little concession that the hon. Minister is agreeable to make, the Bill would be introduced expeditiously at least when Parliament is in session.

As regards other amendments which seek to do away with the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3A, I am not quite happy here also. I agree, as I have already stated, that there may be difficulty in getting a Bill passed just in two months but to leave no time limit or even to make it six months may not be quite appropriate. Yet I have no other alternative but to accept that.

Every time when such a Bill is introduced before the House, we are furnished with notes regarding the industries which are going to be protected by the Bill. This time we have not got that note regarding the ball bearing industry. About three years ago, in the course of a discussion on a similar Bill, this point was raised and the Ministry started the practice of furnishing us with a note. Because the Tariff Commission's report is rather bulky and only one or two copies were available in Parliament, it is not always possible for the Members to read the Tariff Commission's Report. So, the Ministry concerned started the practice of furnishing us with a note. I hope the practice followed this time will not be treated as a precedent also for the future.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): You are an optimist.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think the hon. Minister will assure this House that in future, a similar note will be supplied whenever a Bill like this is introduced in this House.

Then, as regards the industries that are going to be protected, ball bearing is not a consumer's goods. It is a raw material. In the Tariff Commission's Report we find that the cost of production is 151 per cent. higher than the landed cost of imported articles which means that it is three times higher and this Bill goes to give protection at 91 or 94 per cent. I do not know whether this protection will be sufficient for the industry. But at the same time as it is one of the most important raw materials for many engineering industries, we should also be careful that we should not subject the raw material to a very high tax. Because, in that case, the cost of production by the companies which use this raw material will go up to that extent. The main industry using ball bearing is the electric fan industry, and I think the Indian electric fan industry is now in a position to compete with any foreign industry of that category. And I think during the last two years, Indian electric fans have also been exported to other countries. I would particularly like to emphasise the case of the electric fan industry because that consumes about 80 per cent. or near about 75 per cent. of the total ball bearing consumed in India.

In the Tariff Commission's Report there is one point to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. The Commission has not been quite sure about the cost of production in the industry. There is only one factory and ball bearing is a very important item and everyone would like that such an industry should develop in this country and it should get the necessary help and protection from the Government. But at the same time, when we give some protection to the industry, the Tariff Commission should be sure of the cost of production. On that ground the Tariff Commission is not quite sure in this case. I hope the hon. Minister will take steps to see that the cost of production of that industry may be accurately calculated.

Lastly, every time when this sort of a Bill comes before this House, we are reminded of the Fiscal Commission and its recommendations. I do not know how many of the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission have been implemented by the Government. I think excepting the establishment of the Tariff Commission, no other recommendations of the Fiscal Commission have been given effect to. If I am wrong, I hope the hon. Minister will correct me. If the Government have no intention of implementing the recommendation of such an important Commission, then why was that Commission at all set up and some money, some energy, some resources spent on that? So, I think the hon. Minister will also clarify the position of the Government as regards the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): This Bill proposes to give protection to the ball bearing industry. In fact, however, the protection is given to one single solitary concern known as the National Ball Bearing Factory situated in Jaipur. Anyway, I welcome this Bill for the reason that this ball bearing industry is an industry of vital and basic importance. But I must say that the way in which the managing agents of this industry sought protection is certainly open to question. This industry was started, actually it started production sometime in August 1950. But even before one year, the managing agency started correspondence with the Government of India for protection and it was sometime in August 1951 that they did get it. Probably Government or the Tariff Commission took some time in thinking over the matter and what the managing agents did was just to close down in January or February the entire concern. Over 500 workers were thrown out of employment. They gave no reason at all except that they put up a notice one fine morning that the factory is being closed down. Later on, however, it

[Shri Kasliwal]

appears that the Tariff Commission hurried to the factory, made spot enquiries and the result is now this recommendation of the Tariff Commission for protection. I hope the hon. Minister will bear in mind that this is not the way that an industry with a pistol pointed at the head, seeks protection for itself.

My hon. friend Mr. Guha has drawn attention to the high cost of production in this factory. The Tariff Commission went into this question and they found that this factory was working without a proper programme or production. They found that there was no method of costing in this factory. They found that there were no proper accounts kept in the factory. It was a matter of surprise to them and yet this particular national ball bearings industry came in for protection. Anyway, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to paragraphs 15 and 16 of the recommendations of the Tariff Commission in which they have said that this particular concern must be told to rectify these things. I hope the hon. Minister will draw the attention of this particular factory to these things.

On the floor of this House, many times it has been said that when protection is being granted to a particular industry, it must be seen that that industry works up to its rated capacity. The rated capacity of this factory is production of six lakh ball bearings every year, if it works on a single shift of eight hours. But, this factory is not working up to the rated capacity. In 1950, they produced two lakh ball bearings. The Tariff Commission says that in 1952, from April to December, their programme was to produce about four lakh ball bearings. We do not know and the hon. Minister has not said anything as to what was the production in 1952. But, I must say that if such a high protective duty is being imposed, it is the business of the Government to see that such factories work up to their full capacity. The total demand, as the Tariff Commission has said, for ball bearings, comes to nine lakhs, most of which, as my hon. friend Mr. Guha has said, is consumed in the manufacture of electric fans. If the Company were to work conscientiously up to its rated capacity, I do not see why the entire demand of this country should not be met from the production of this factory.

There is one little matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, and it is this. In item 72 (35) he has made a little distinction, a distinction which was not recommended by the Tariff Commission. He says: ball bearings of two inches bore, of British manufacture will have 91½ per cent. *ad valorem* whereas non-British manufacture will have 94½ per cent., that is 91½ plus three per cent. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly tell us the reason for this particular distinction.

There is another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. The Tariff Commission have recommended that we should withdraw from the GATT, that is, the General Agreement regarding Trade and Tariffs in this particular matter. I am glad that the hon. Minister in the case of adapter bearings has imposed a revenue duty of ten per cent., which is the maximum leviable under the GATT. Although the Tariff Commission has recommended that it should be only 5¼ per cent., I am glad that this revenue duty has been increased up to ten per cent.

There is only one other small item to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. This is a very important industry. It is not merely a basic industry; but it is also an industry of strategic importance. The demand on this company will be continuously increasing. I suggest that because there is only one concern and because it is of such national importance, steps may be taken to nationalise this industry.

Shri P. T. Chacko (Meenachil): I have only a few remarks to make on clause 3 of the Bill before the House. I do not know whether the protection contemplated to the ball bearing industry is actually a protection for an Indian industry. Because, from the report of the Tariff Commission it can be seen that actually this is an industry which is controlled by a British firm, Hoffmans Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Chelmsford. According to the agreement entered into between this company and the Birlas, this company came into existence. This is the one company which is now manufacturing ball bearings, and steel balls. As per provisions of that agreement, every month, Rs. 5,575 will have to be paid to Messrs. Hoffmans Co., Ltd., as a fixed royalty. Over and above this Rs. 5,575 to be paid as fixed royalty to the British firm, a variable royalty of 2½ per cent. nett. will have to be paid on the nett value of sale proceeds. That means that this 2½ per cent. will have to be paid even after paying Income-tax. Therefore according to Tariff Commission, it will come to about four per cent. So, out of the nett value of the sale proceeds, four per cent. will have to be given to the

English firm as variable royalty in addition to Rs. 5,575 as fixed royalty. The managing agency allowance is apart from these two items. That is Rs. 18,000 per month.

Some Hon. Members: Per month?

Shri P. T. Chacko: Rs. 18,000 per annum, I am sorry. Taking into consideration all these things, it can clearly be seen how the cost of production is almost 150 per cent. higher than the landed cost of the commodity in India. Even if the factory is to work and produce at its full capacity, it can produce only nine lakh ball bearings and the cost price as calculated by the Tariff Commission will come to about 16 lakh rupees. As regards steel balls, if the factory is to produce to its full capacity, it will produce about 7·3 lakh gross only, and the value will come to about Rs. 13·5 lakhs. Therefore, we can easily see from a calculation that in the cost price calculated by the Tariff Commission, almost 33 per cent. is accounted for by the allowance to the managing agents and royalty, while a major portion of it is accounted for by the royalty given to the British firm. If the factory produces about Rs. 28 lakhs worth of commodities, nearly Rs. 7½ lakhs are accounted for in this manner.

So it can be clearly seen that if, there is any profit from this industry, that profit goes to the British firm and not to the Indian firm or the Indian people. Therefore, I am afraid, whether the protection given to this one company, is in the interests of this country at all, because this increase in the price of ball bearings will have its repercussions in other industries as well. There is also a tariff duty on the main raw materials, namely, high carbon and chromium steel. If the Government thinks that some protection should be given to this industry, then, even as it is, I would suggest that the tariff duty on this raw material may be reduced, if not abolished, and thereby protection be given to this industry. If it is given to such an extent as is contemplated in the Bill, then it will mean protection being given to one British firm in preference to all other firms, British as well as other foreign firms. I submit that these considerations also should weigh with the Government when protection is sought to be given to the industry.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): So far as this Bill is concerned, I only want to speak on the legal and the constitutional aspects of this Bill. In 1946, a Bill was brought before this House by the then Member for Industries, Mr. Azizul Haque, who wanted that a departure should be made from the previous practice, to the effect that whenever the Minister of Industries felt that protection was to be given as a matter of urgency, then he could by his own order, before coming to Parliament, make a notification in the Gazette, for the purpose, and then subsequently bring forward a Bill before the House. At that time, a foreign Government was in office, and all the Members were very suspicious about the intentions of the Government. I was present in the House then and suggested an amendment to the effect, that if our Standing Committee on Industries had also agreed to the proposal, then only the hon Minister could be authorised to prejudge and place a notification, and later on to bring forward a Bill. Ultimately that Bill was passed. After three years, the matter came up again before this House. In 1950 we passed a Bill, and then again in 1951 also we passed a similar Bill. This is the third Bill which we are asked to pass now. I do not want to go into the history of the matter, because it does not look nice so far as a Member in my position is concerned, to bring all those matters once again before this House. You, Sir, fully remember what objections were taken legally and constitutionally, and you yourself were pleased to comment on that aspect, and you were of the view that as a matter of fact, this House is the only House which has got the full responsibility of passing a measure of this kind, and that the hon. Minister or as such the executive should not be given this power at all. I also placed this aspect of the question before the House, and submitted that according to our Constitution such delegated legislation was not warranted, but at the same time, the point was one which was a bit doubtful, because according to the practice of the House of Commons, such a power was found to be inherent in the Ministers. I—and if I may be allowed to quote you—you also felt that according to our Constitution, we were not well advised in giving this power to the executive, but our hon. Speaker then suggested that a compromise may be effected. The House also felt so, and ultimately a compromise was effected, and we passed that measure. The compromise was that when the House was sitting, within 15 days the Bill had to be brought before the House, and if the House was not sitting then, within 15 days of the re-assembly of Parliament, the Bill could be brought. But there was another essential condition that the Bill must be got through within two months. Otherwise the entire notification etc. were to lose their effect. That was the condition attached.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

So far as the personality of our hon. Minister is concerned, I can assure him that we have got the fullest faith in him, and similarly so far as Shri Karmarkar is concerned, who was then the pioneer of that Bill, we also assured him of that confidence. I have no doubt in my mind that the power will not be abused, so far as these hon. Ministers are concerned. I appreciate the words of the hon. Commerce Minister when he said that so far as he is concerned, he is not out to usurp the powers of Parliament. He is perfectly right; so far as he is concerned, we are also not doubtful of him. I am personally not doubtful as to whether he will abuse these powers, or even our present Government.

But at the same time, in passing this Act, the Government want a complete change. It is not that the present Bill is only for a certain period. Previously when we arrived at the compromise, the arguments advanced were that the Bill might be for a particular period only, namely two years. But now the hon. Minister wants to have a complete change in the law. I am really very sorry to see this Bill, because it was only as a compromise arrangement that we agreed to at that time, and it held good only for two years, because we would not agree to a longer period. Therefore the question has come up again after two years. Now the entire law is sought to be changed. I, for one, am very very sorry that we should part with our powers or our rights—not that our Government will not do the right thing, but at the same time, the question arises, what are we here for? Have we not seen that yesterday the Bill was brought before us, and you were agreeable to it to the extent that you want to see it passed today? Does the hon. Minister think that in a Bill of this nature, Parliament will not do its duty? Is he of the opinion that if the Bill is brought before the House, the House will not be alive to its responsibility, and that the Ministers alone could appreciate the difficulty and not Parliament? My submission is that when Parliament is sitting, there is no reason whatsoever, why we should allow those powers to be exercised by any hon. Minister, whether we have confidence in him or not. The House has got a responsibility, and the House must discharge that responsibility. Considering the powers of this House, the responsibility of the House, and articles 105, 110, 117 and 265 of the Constitution, this House has the powers to make laws concerning the levy and collection of taxes and no other individual or body can exercise this power. According to article 265, all taxes must be levied and collected by the authority of law, and law means a law made by this House. I may submit that I have not gone in detail into these questions at all, but when we are given the power, I do not see any reason why we should depart from the usual practice and allow delegated legislation; until a person goes to the Supreme Court and gets a different interpretation, I do not feel there is any reason why we should give this power at all to the executive. But all the same, when the change is being made in a manner that it is bound to curtail the rights of this House, I am bound to differ. I would therefore, respectfully ask the House to consider carefully whether they are going to accept this particular change in the law.

In a Bill of this nature I find that there is no urgency about the matter. Nothing would have been lost if this Bill had been brought after a month. I could understand the situation in 1946 and 1951 when our nascent industries were being sought to be protected. There time was of the essence, and it might be that if there was delay, the protection that we wanted to afford could not be availed of. But now when the House is sitting—sitting for eight months in the year—there is absolutely no reason why we should not ourselves exercise this right.

If you will kindly see article 119 of th Constitution, it will be found that the Constitution does countenance such a position of emergency. Article 119 says that if it is necessary the House can itself arrange the timing in such a manner that an urgent matter of importance like a Money Bill or something like that, can be disposed in such time as the Speaker and the House choose to take over it. It is a statutory provision and we have been acting up to it, I do not see any difficulty when the House is sitting why the hon. Minister should not come before this House and then try to get the sanction of the House for the proposed protection. When the House is not sitting, I can understand if the power is not given, nothing would be lost, because the Ordinance-making power is there. When an Ordinance is made, we find that the whole Government is committed to it and not only the Minister of Commerce. Therefore, there is an additional safeguard, I should say, and if the President so wants, he can just promulgate an Ordinance. Those days are gone and we are not suspicious of Ordinances. At present if in a matter like this there is an Ordinance, people will appreciate the move and will not condemn it. Even supposing that this power is sought to be taken from the House—and the House seems to be-agreeable because I do not find that any hon. Member has so far tabled an amendment over it, Mr. Guha agrees and wants to make it six months—I do not know in what position people like me should stand. I would rather insist, if the House is not sitting and this power is taken, that within 15 days of the re-assembly a Bill must be introduced. Because what is the difficulty? Six months, I should say, is an unconscionably long time.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not for introducing, but.........

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava: I know that. Previously the rule was that it should be passed within two months. Why it is so? Unless the hon. Minister justifies this extension of time, I am loath to give this power to the executive and to see that within two months the law is not passed.

It may be that if this power is once given—I am not speaking of this Ministry or that Minister—it will be very difficult to take it back. If this power is given and the hon. Minister chooses to bring in a Bill and give protection for several months, he can do so, and then withdraw the Bill and just cheat the House of its own powers. This can happen. I can visualise such a situation in which the House will be helpless. If we pass this Bill, my humble submission is that we should insist—and we should not go further than the powers which we gave in the previous Bill—on all those safeguards which we want.

In this matter so far as the personality of the hon. Minister is concerned, as I submitted, I have no doubt he does not want to usurp powers. He himself made a very fighting speech on the last occasion and we all cheered him. I have absolutely no doubt that he has got the best of motives. He was then also actuated by the best of motives and we followed him. We are bound to follow him and we are not going to abjure those lessons or principles which he propounded then. I would respectfully ask him, as he said in his own inimitable way that he does not want to usurp powers, for the safeguards which we have already got. He has made no case before us for changing the principles which we had accepted in the previous Bill. Had he come with some figures and justified that in certain cases the country did lose as we had not given such protection as he wanted, I could have understood it, and then there would have been some case for us to consider a change of law.

Even supposing four Bills were introduced, what would have been lost? Even supposing they were introduced after 15 days, what would have been lost? Now the duties are changed only from revenue to protective. My humble submission is that we should consider twice before we agree even to the amendment of Mr. Guha and we should see that the law, as it stands, remains there. It was made as a compromise and with the willing consent of all the Members of that House then and I should be very loath to see it changed.

EVICTION OF SOME M.Ps. FROM WINDSOR PLACE

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I would beg of you, Sir, to give me some time to refer to a matter which is agitating us very much, that is, the raids on the houses of some Members here which are used for purposes of storing books, documents and all sorts of other things. These have been taken possession of by the police at a time when the matter in dispute was still not settled. Yesterday, Sir, I had a talk with the Speaker over the telephone and there was......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member refers to some quarters. The matter came up before me and before the Speaker. If any representation has to be made, there is a Committee of the House appointed. If I can be of help, I shall do so. But this is not the forum to discuss this matter. (*Interruptions*). Whatever it may be, all I would say is that this is not a matter for Parliament to take notice of. There is a Housing Committee with full powers, a Committee of Parliament, not a Committee of Government. Under these circumstances, I will have no objection to talk to the hon. Member inside the Chamber and if I can be of help, I shall do so.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: We cannot have any access to our places and we cannot function as Members of Parliament—those who live there and those who depend on documents which are stored there. We cannot function as Members of Parliament unless access is allowed to those places.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as Parliament is concerned, it is guided by certain rules and regulations. This cannot be a subject matter which can be taken up by Parliament here. All that I can say is that there is a Committee of the House composed of Members of Parliament. If houses are allotted or not allotted etc., that is not a matter which Parliament here can decide.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): In the ordinary course it is a question of the Committee functioning. But here is a situation in which the residences of

[Shri Punnoose]

some of our comrades are raided by the police and this is something which we have to bring to your notice.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): The Housing Committee is subordinate to Parliament.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members ought to know that such a motion cannot be raised immediately. There must be an intimation to me at least in the Chamber. So far as this matter is concerned, I would have to find out whether this motion can be allowed or not.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I might tell you, Sir, that I have had a talk with the Speaker on the telephone and he said that the hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply could easily settle the matter, because the Speaker hoped that the matter would be settled by mutual arrangement between ourselves. That is why, Sir, the only reccurse we had was to come to you here. We had no opportunity of seeing you elsewhere.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was there inside the Chamber for nearly two hours. If this matter had come to my notice, I would have looked up whether it was possible to allow such a motion, what were the rules and regulations, and what was the scope of it. I would have certainly considered that matter. But offhand. I am really sorry I cannot consider this matter here and interrupt the proceedings of the House.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Would you look into it, Sir, immediately after this, because we cannot go home. The place is locked and the police are there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have no objection.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May we request you to issue a stay order?

Shri Nanadas (Ongole—Reserved—Sch. Castes): It is a question of the belongings of Members of Parliament thrown out by the police. It cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am prepared to meet the hon. Members.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL—*contd.*

7 P.M.

Shri Basappa (Tumkur): It is a very important subject that we are discussing in this Bill. The three important subjects with which we are interested in this Bill, are, the tariff policy that is being pursued by the Government; also something about the Imperial preference because of the British goods that are to be seen in the Schedule and also the question, the more important question, of delegated legislation with which we are concerned here.

I was a little horror-struck when I saw that the Government wanted this kind of delegated legislation for all time to come, because, I see in clause 2, the last paragraph, which says:

> "(c) sub-section (4) shall be omitted."

First of all they wanted it for three years, then they wanted it for two more years, then for a further two years and now they are not satisfied with all that and they are now coming forward with a Bill not for two years but for all time to come. Personally I am a little unwilling to grant such requests on the part of the Government. I have seen the speech of the hon. Minister himself in 1951 and I was surprised that our hon. Minister who spoke in that strain that day should come forward with a Bill of this sort today. On that occasion he said—towards the end of his speech he said:

> "Therefore, I plead, as this is also a matter of educating our people to discharge their responsibilities adequately, do not fetter the freedom that Parliament will have—leave it to Parliament, when it meets, to impose or not the duty by a Bill. The moment a Bill is introduced and Parliament gives its approval to such introduction and then protection can come into operation to be rescinded or amended as Parliament chooses when it passes the Bill."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no hurry. The hon. Member can read it a little slowly and distinctly.

Shri Basappa: I read it a little rapidly. I will read it a little slowly if the House wants.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): We want to know what the hon. Minister said when he was not a Member of the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not read *in extenso*.

Shri Basappa: I will say what the hon. Minister said first of all when he was a Member of this House and not a Member of the Treasury Benches. He must not forget that he is a Member of this House first and then a Minister. Therefore, the position as a Member should be safeguarded first and I appeal to him that he should give the same amount of interest as he used to give before.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is also open under the Constitution to become first a Minister and then a Member.

Shri Basappa: I do appreciate that fact, that the Minister feels greater responsibility than the Members sometimes. It is a good thing also that we should be cautious whenever we make our speeches I say, in this matter, the Government should not clamour so much for delegated legislation. He himself has said in that speech that Parliament sits for nearly seven or eight months in the year. It will not be difficult for the Government to bring in a Bill that it wants and to get it passed.

This tariff policy is concerned with the economic prosperity of the country and the industrial development of the country. The Five Year Plan envisages so much of development and therefore any tariff policy should have the approval of this Parliament. What we notice in the case of this protection policy is, that certain industries have been given protection. But they do not seem to have improved at all. They take advantage of the protective duties; they want to have all the profits to themselves. The more important point of view with which the hon. Minister is concerned so much is neglected at every step and therefore I say that there is so much wastage in some of the industries and also no attention is paid towards the improvement of the industries. What they want is immediate returns for themselves. Therefore, we must have a greater check over those industries. Even though the Tariff Commission has made the recommendation that these industries should enjoy a lot of freedom and a lot of protection, still this Parliament should be very cautious in seeing the way these industries are worked. There must be close supervision of the industries which are enjoying protection. I do not know what statistics the Tariff Commission has before them with regard to some of these industries, because we have not got regular statistics as to how much quantity is required, how much quantity is imported and all these things. Therefore, the Tariff Commission is basing its conclusions on statistics which are not quite correct. We must be very cautious in this Parliament to see that whenever protection is given, the Government should have ample machinery to check up all these industries from time to time. Otherwise there is danger of these industries going astray.

The next thing which I want to say is that this delegated legislation is a necessary evil. There is no doubt about that. But to what extent we must have this delegation is a point with which I am immediately concerned. I say it is a necessary evil because......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Greater silence should be observed in the House, please.

Shri Basappa: ... ..the industries do require this kind of protection, and it is evil because democracy is made a mockery of. This evil persists so much that if this continues then there is a danger for the industries themselves. Since it is necessary to have this kind of protection, we shall have a close supervision over these industries. All that I am saying is that we should have greater supervision over these industries.

Another important point I want to say is this. The Government say that they want to stop speculation. Supposing every time they want to bring in such a Bill before Parliament, the merchant class or the traders will take hint from it and there will be so much repercussion on the market and there will be speculation. To avoid that also they want this legislation. Of course, I can see the emergent circumstances. Parliament will be in session for a long time and therefore they can easily come before us. I shall not emphasise this point again.

There are one or two other points with which I do not want to trouble the House. There are other ways of giving protection to the industries. There is the method of giving subsidies to the industries and the method of restricting the imports. That is also another way of giving protection to these industries. But these methods are considered to be not so very good. I welcome this Bill on the whole but at the same time I must say that certain amendments must be made by the Government before they can get it passed.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: In the light of the legal, constitutional and factual points which have emerged from the discussion on this Bill so far, I do sincerely trust that my hon. friend, the Commerce Minister would withdraw this Bill at this stage and bring forward another Bill which will be consistent with the rights and privileges of this House. I am given to understand that on a previous occasion, a less controversial Bill took full three days for debate, and I do hope, Sir, that you in your wisdom would not

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

continue this debate for some time longer tonight and then guillotine it so that the Bill might go to the other place. I am also given to understand that there will be no difficulty as far as my hon. friend the Commerce Minister is concerned, for the other House has two official days the 11th and 12th, to re-introduce a revised and less obnoxious Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The other House rises on the 6th.

An Hon. Member: It will re-convene itself.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It comes back on the 27th. The delegation expires on the 28th.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: My points are four, and I would like to be extremely brief. Several hon. Members have referred to the problem of delegated legislation, and most prominently my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava made a spirited speech.

Here is a book by a former Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, *New Despotism.*

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It has become an old one.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: You are the new version of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly address the Chair.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: A former Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, had to bemoan the manner in which the Secretariat of Government in that country even was running a coach and four into the rights and privileges of Parliament, and that mercilessly the privileges of the Legislature were being decimated. It is from that angle that I was very unhappy to listen to the statement which the hon. Minister made while moving this particular Bill. He said that he is very considerate towards the convenience of Members of this House, and I can assure him that there will not be a single Member of this House who would refuse to assist him by sitting for as many nights and as many days as he wants to do within a prescribed time-table to get through a legislation of this character, but I do very strongly deprecate anything done towards an abridgement of the rights of this House. I was sorry even yesterday when the other Bill was rushed through with such speed. Some points were made, and you know about them. I am referring to the Excise Duty Bill, arising out of the recommendations of the Finance Commission. The intention ten days ago in this House was that we will have an opportunity of debating the Report of that Commission, and still it was not done. I was making a brief reference to this matter, for the reason that step by step decisions are being rushed through this House in order to ensure that Government will have a field day whenever it wants and in whatever manner it wants. I do hope that this point need not be laboured any further.

My second point is this. I have noted down here the words used by my hon. friend the Commerce and Industry Minister while moving this Bill. He said that he was a "strong protagonist of consumer interests". In the light of the revelations made by my hon. friends Shri Kasliwal and Shri Chacko, it is clear that the consumer is being deliberately done in the eye, because this particular industry that is sought to be protected through this Bill is monopolist—completely monopolist—in character. There is no competition, either internal or external. I am very careful in using both these words, because monopoly is a part of a cartel system to which India has become apparently accustomed through recent business arrangements, with the result that any tears shed in favour of the rights of the consumer would be rather misplaced in the light of the conditions revealed during the discussion.

The third point is a very important one, and it refers to the quantum of protection that is sought to be given, and the character of that protection. The provisions of the Bill before us this evening propose to convert the revenue duty into a protective duty. This is completely consistent with the character of the industry sought to be protected. The protection sought to be given is 91½ per cent. *ad valorem,* almost equal to the cost price—locally —of British manufactured goods, and for non-British goods there is an addition of three per cent., making up 94½ per cent. I feel very strongly that the quantum of protection as well as the character of protection, in the light of the circumstances revealed to us as regards the manner in which we are rushing this Bill through, are such that we have every reason to feel suspicious that somewhere in the councils of the Government of India, a sort of industrial lobby is making its presence felt. I would be very unhappy to be-personal in my approach to this problem—personal in the sense of pinpointing individuals who might be responsible for this lobbying—but I do think that this House is entitled to protection to the extent that there cannot be any suspicion of the depredations of an industrial lobby or business lobby which may be at the back of Bills of this character. Otherwise, I cannot see the reason for such a tremendous amount of protection that is sought to be given.

The fourth and last point is that about Imperial preference. Both I and the hon. Minister have clashed on this issue on more than one occasion during the course of last year in this House. I am not here to belabour that point. The three per cent. margin is there, but what strikes me as most obnoxious is that because the Indian Company and its reciprocal British Company, Hoffmans, are interlocked, this three per cent. preferential duty in favour of British goods imported into this country has to be conceded, meaning thereby, as I said earlier, the complete monopolisation of the market, on the basis of the reprehensible principle of cartels. I do sincerely hope that after listening to the arguments so far presented, irrespective of party considerations, from both sides of the House, my hon. friend the Commerce and Industry Minister would not hesitate to withdraw this Bill, and bring forward another which will be consistent with the rights and privileges of this House.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Mr. Guha while opening the debate said that he was not happy over this Bill. He further said that the Government contemplated under this Bill to arrogate to themselves more and more power. Mr. Kasliwal who spoke later said that the company which has been getting this protection is not an Indian company at all. It is a company controlled by foreign interests—mostly British. Mr. Chacko also supported this argument, and both of them said that the company was not working properly. There was enormous wastage and the managing agents were not doing their job well. They closed the factory often, and as a result there was huge unemployment. Then Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava ably argued that this House should be protected and there should not be any danger to the rights and privileges of this House. He said that if this Bill were passed, Government would be clothed with enormous powers and this House would be condemned to helplessness. So, he argued that this Bill should be withdrawn. Later on, Mr. Basappa also argued that delegated legislation was harmful to the country, and too much of delegation is dangerous to democracy. Further, Dr. Lanka Sundaram said that this Bill should be dropped altogether, because the protection which this Bill seeks to give creates an interest which is monopolist, and the quantum and character of the protection are highly objectionable. He further said that Imperial preference should not be continued. It is a standing shame.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): Why are you repeating all that? The House has heard it.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am giving a summary.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Lest you forget.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: The hon. Minister seems to have two voices. In the past he argued the case in one way. As a Member of the Treasury Bench, he is arguing differently. He is playing both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He has two faces and two voices. It is very unfortunate.

I want to draw the attention of the House to only one important point, namely, the play of foreign interests in India. There is a loss to the Indian people of a sum of Rs. 500 crores on account of this protection policy, and the benefits that accrue from this policy have gone in favour of foreign interests.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we going into the general protection policy?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It is relevant to the occasion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. It is not relevant. The only point is that after the Tariff Commission's recommendations, when the House is not sitting, effect should be given in certain cases. As soon as the House assembles, it is brought before the House. The point is whether such a power should or should not be given. Of course, they can wait till Parliament is convened. But during the interval, can they have this power or not? That is one point. The other point is whether it ought to be made a part and parcel of the permanent statute. The third point is whether it ought to be introduced within fifteen days, or within two months. We are not going into the general protection policy now.

Shri Dhulekar (Jhansi Distt.—South): In the face of what experienced hon. Members like Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Shri Arun Chandra

[Shri **Dhulekar**]

Guha have said, will it not be profitable if we drop this discussion today so that we may consider the whole matter and it may be taken up tomorrow.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not tomorrow. 11th and 12th are days for legislative business. We can take this Bill upon the 11th or 12th and the Upper House can consider it on the 26th of 27th. It will not be fair to rush a Bill like this through this House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Bill was not introduced yesterday; it was introduced some time ago. The Bill was set down for consideration yesterday; we had to adjourn it for today. If the hon. Minister agrees, I have no objection.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My only difficulty is that the other House is meeting on the 27th.

Shri A. C. Guha: 26th.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: 27th. that is what I heard. The present provision expires on the 28th. I have got to get it passed in the other House and get the President's assent. Otherwise we will be in great difficulty. That is cutting it extremely fine. If the other House is inclined to be a little obstructive and takes some additional time, I would be in the position of not having got the Bill passed at all. I have gone to the extent of even suggesting to the House that it should take some additional time and take this trouble. I would perfectly be in the hands of this House so far as the time is concerned. But that is my difficulty.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Can the Government not persuade the other House to meet a little earlier?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I understand they have no work.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If this House can pass it within such a short time, will the other House take more than one day?

Shri A. C. Guha: You know, Sir, what an amount of controversy this Bill evoked in 1950 and 1951; you yourself participated in it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend has mentioned these to me. I told him I am prepared to accept his amendment. My difficulty is that I have to get the Bill passed in the other House as well and take the President's assent. Otherwise the whole measure lapses on the 28th.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I humbly suggest one course? There are two provisions in the Bill: one relating to giving protection and the other relating to change in the present law. So far as protection is concerned, that may be considered separately. So far as section 3A is concerned, we are prepared to agree that instead of the provision expiring on the 23th March 1953, we are prepared to its extension till the 28th March 1955 Nothing is lost: the protection may be given. What is his difficulty to accepting this?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If protection could be given, then half the battle is won. When the hon. Member was in the Chair I pointed out the difference between the old provision and the new one. If the Chair will permit me I shall explain it further. As between the two sections there is no vital difference excepting that the hon. Member feels that something is being done in an underhand manner. If the objection is to the original provision, the objection holds good to the amendment as well. I cannot see what objection there could be to the amendment. The amendment merely seeks to do this. If I have four notifications during this session, I shall bring all the notifications in one Bill. That is all that I seek to do in the amendment. That is the sum total of the amendment. I am not bound to bring within fifteen days a Bill for every one of the notifications. I am club them and bring them in one Bill. I need not give the House the trouble of considering every separate notification. There is no difference in substance between the two provisions.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am only saying that India does not want to have a tariff policy to enable foreign interests to thrive in our land at the cost of the Indian people. This particular Bill seeks to protect an industry which has no justification to exist. It has failed in its purpose. It has not made out a case for protection. The record of this industry is very bleak Just to enable this industry to thrive and enable foreign capitalists to reap more fruits the hon. the Industries Minister has come forward with this Bill. In these circumstances, we cannot permit this Bill to be brought before the House: nor can we permit it to be passed.

The tariff policy that has been pursued so long by the Government of India is very bad. Under this tariff policy many foreign interests have benefited and grown bulky and they are making merry even today. Henceforth we do not want that the Government of India should encourage these foreign interests. We do not want to sacrifice the interests of the consumers for the interests of foreign capitalists.

I am not against the principle of protection *in toto*. I want protection. But protection should be based on strong grounds. The protection should be aimed to protect the interests of Indians.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid I will have to ask the hon. Member not to refer to this matter any longer. If he has nothing more to say he may resume his seat. I have heard him sufficiently. Under the Act that was passed a Tariff Commission has been appointed and on the recommendation of that Commission, it is open to the Government to introduce a Bill. When the House is not sitting Government has the power of giving protection to an industry by notification and this can be formalised by bringing a Bill later on. All that this Bill seeks to do is that instead of bringing forward a Bill after issue of every Notification, they can bring a consolidated Bill covering all the Notifications.

So the general question of protection and foreign interests does not arise at this stage. As and when protection is granted to any particular industry, it is open to the hon. Member then to say that foreign interests get greater protection than our own interests. The point is very simple. The hon. Member must conclude in one or two minutes.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: The amendment seeks to drop the original sub-section (3) and incorporate a new sub-section. The implication of this amendment is very far-reaching. It gives a blank cheque to the Government. There is no time-limit given and Parliament cannot even question the validity of anything previously done by Government in this matter. We cannot bring this issue before the House and discuss the matter; we cannot say whether the policy pursued by the Government is right or wrong. So that power is also taken away.

Further, as my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has pointed out, the power of issuing Notification under this provision may be misused. Government may issue a Notification and may withdraw it immediately and within that period the interests of the industry may be jeopardised. So we cannot give a blank cheque to the Ministry to issue Notifications in this regard. I feel that the original provision of the section may stand as it is and there is no necessity to amend this provision, or to drop this provision and substitute other provision.

More, the rate of protective duty which has been contemplated is too high. If an industry wants protection, that protection should be given within some limit. This 91½ and 94½ per cent. protective duty is rather too much. If that industry seeks so much of protective duty to continue its existence, then that industry is not justified to exist. Even if high protection is given to that industry for a certain time, there is no indication that that industry will thrive and will in future benefit the consumers.

So I argue that the quantum of protection should be reduced and the amendment to sub-section (3) of section 3A should be withdrawn. If the hon. Minister is prepared to bring forward a new Bill, it is very welcome. But with the existing provisions we cannot endorse this Bill. It is better that this Bill is assigned to the waste paper basket.

Shri Bansal: Sir......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members need not repeat what has been said. If there is any new point it may be referred to.

Shri Bansal: I will not repeat any of the points made already.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Sir may I know whether you intend to complete this Bill today?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are only two simple questions: one is whether it should be a permanent part of the statute; the other is about the question of fifteen days. The hon. Minister has explained that if there are a number of Notifications, fifteen days will not be convenient. As regards the other point, with or without the power you can always have an Ordinance.

These are simple points, and there is no good quoting me as if I am the pandit in these matters.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Banaras Distt.—Central): How long are we going to sit, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Until the Bill is passed—or rejected.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Not beyond eight.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think there has been enough discussion.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members were anxious to go, and therefore I am closing up early.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as clause 3 is concerned I would like to say this that while I am envious of the assiduity of my hon. friend Mr. Chacko in delving into these figures, I am constrained to say that the conclusions that he drew from an examination of them are not correct. The last pages of the report give the *pro rata* cost of the compentent parts:

Item 1.	Raw materials cost	0·336.
	Conversion charges	1·737.
	Total	2·073.
Interest on working capital, return on block, and, variable royalty:		0·512.

All these factors are about 25 per cent., that is interest on working capital, return on block and variable royalty. So I think what my hon. friend said, namely that the royalty and other things amount to about 33⅓ per cent., is not quite correct.

I do agree that there is a royalty and the royalty works out at about four per cent. But the fact remains that the know-how has to be given to this Indian firm.

Another point which hon. Members have missed is the point which I laboured at length in my opening speech, that is, that so far as the bulk of the products is concerned it is only a conversion from the existing revenue duty into a protective duty. No additional burden is cast on them. It may look surprising why the Tariff Commission should, after conducting an examination, make this recommendation which means more or less a confirmation of the *status quo*. But that is the position, except that it gives powers to the Government, in the event of there being any dumping, to give relief to the industry. That is the real position in regard to clause 3.

The other criticism that it is not an Indian industry is wrong. It is an Indian owned industry. No doubt there is foreign participation in the shape of royalty. But the know-how is there. It is an extremely difficult industry. These two industries which have started are a basic industry for other industries. They are good industries. It is not correct to say that this industry is not producing. The production of one unit in 1952 has been six lakhs instead of 4,16,000. And the Government have not lost sight of the recommendation of the Tariff Commission. They have in their resolution, copy of which is in the Library, in paragraph 3 stated:

> "Attention is invited to recommendations 11—14".

And these recommendations are mentioned in the resolution. Therefore, I claim that Government have taken adequate care.

In regard to inspection of these industries to which protection has been given, hon. Members will be aware that I had summarised the review of the Tariff Commission for the period from January 1952 to September 1952. Of course, at that time I had to send the papers in a hurry and they were cyclostyled. The printed copy is now available in the Library. The Tariff Commission is bestowing some attention on industries which enjoy protection.

But the main question, I still submit, is this. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, who, I know, has been extremely kind to me in his personal references, has felt, I think, unduly that the Government is seeking to augment its powers in a very surreptitious manner far beyond what was originally intended. I did mention at the outset that I was not very happy at the necessity for the Government to have these powers. In fact, an hon. Member, Mr. Basappa, pointed out my misdemeanour in the past! It is quite correct. My natural predilections are that in the case of protection, the consumer's interest often suffers. In a country like ours where consumption propensity is notoriously low, we have to guard the consumer's interests. Even if the industry is to thrive, if the consumption propensity dies what is the use of the industry being started? I know we are making those mistakes. But to the extent possible for me as the person in charge of Commerce and Industry, I can assure the House that that influence is exerted towards protecting the consumer's interests.

I know an hon. Member has said the industries are very powerful. They are powerful. Oftentimes hon. Members have asked: why do you not ban the imports of those articles? That is a more effective protection than any protection that the Tariff Commission can give. But that is what I am being asked in this very House: why do you allow such and such article to be imported? Two predecessors of mine, very distinguished people, the hon. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the hon. Shri Harekrushna Mahtab, spoke today. And it was an education, so far as I was concerned. My immediate predecessor said: why have you allowed the importation of cloth and given it a ten per cent. quota? I have not allowed it. It has been allowed under conditions. Eighty per cent. duty in some cases, 100 per cent. duty in other cases. We have become a definitely protective country today. With this introduction of the Finance Bill, we have for the first time taken our duty to 100 per cent. It was not heard of in this country before. Most of the articles are in the region of 66 to 100 per cent. If somebody is prepared to import, is prepared to buy, you have the satisfaction that the taxpayer is relieved to that extent. Our duties are protective, very highly protective. Again I am asked oftentimes to ban the import of particular articles. This is a competent body, an impartial body which makes a recommendation in particular instances. It happens that it is not the same revenue duty converted to protective duty. The difficulty in regard to section 3A is this. The life of that section comes to an end on the 28th March, 1953. We want to augment it. The question is whether this Government would be able to give it up in future. On the contrary, it seems that the Tariff Commission will be burdened with more and more enquiries and my hon. friend, Dr. Lanka Sundaram has repeatedly said on previous occasions that the Tariff Commission must be enlarged. More and more cases of protection will go before it because we are starting more industries. If that be so, this becomes more or less a regular feature. It is not even an annual affair. It comes in periodically, month after month. If that is conceded, the limitation of two years has no meaning and therefore we have to seek the permission of Parliament to put it as a permanent part of the statute.

The second thing is the method by which Parliamentary approval can be sought. The original proposal was that within 15 days of the issue of the Notification. the Bill should be placed before Parliament and that should become law in two months. What happens in this session? I do anticipate there might be three or four Notifications. Of course, I am perfectly prepared to come and argue with the hon. Members. I know that they are very kind to me personally even though they may not approve of the Government's policy. Four times I come. The business of the House is for two months. It is choke-full. The Government have only two days for official Bills. In a session like this, I have four measures coming before the House. Let me club them into one Bill, come towards the end of the session instead of making the House sit till eight merely because the other House is adjourning. I must get through all these difficulties. My friend, Mr. Guha wanted a safeguard that it must be introduced before it rises. Surely we have introduced it. We do not want it to lapse. An additional safeguard is put in because within two months it has to be passed. If Parliament rises the whole purpose of it will be infructuous. In any event the Government must get it through within six months. There is no question of the infringement of the Constitution which my hon. friend, Pandit Bhargava so ably assisted in bringing into being. I have sat at his feet and learnt the defects of this Constitution because he has been an able opponent of many of those articles which infringe on individual liberty. We both have worked together. I am quite conscious of the spirit with which my hon. friend raised that point but there is no infringement of the Constitution. Government owes its life to this House. The Government can be thrown out at any time. I may mention in all humility that this is no new despotism because after Lord Hewart wrote his book on new despotism, people followed with similar books in America. Thereafter, there was a Committee of Ministers in the Houses of Parliament and that Committee had reported. We are following more or less the recommendations of that Committee. In the delegated legislation that we take, we enumerate as far as possible how that delegated legislation will be used. If it is a question of rule making powers, the delegation is circumscribed by the manner in which it can be exercised. I think I may not be here—I may be away tomorrow—the history of two of my distinguished predecessors is there. My life is not worth a moment's purchase and nobody is more conscious of it than I am. I am not speaking for me as a Minister. I am merely speaking for a person who will probably be a Member or may not be a Member. Therefore, I do not think that the House's prerogatives are in jeopardy. That is all I would submit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.—(Amendment of section 3A etc.)

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:
In page 1, after line 24, insert:

> "Provided that if the notification under sub-section (1) is issued when Parliament is in session, such a Bill shall be introduced in Parliament during that session.
>
> Provided further that where for any reason a Bill as aforesaid does not become law within six months from the date of its introduction in Parliament, the notification shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period of six months".

I have nothing more to add.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I accept the amendment.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am very thankful to the hon. Minister for having referred to me in those affectionate words which I reciprocate. As a matter of fact I have learnt so much at the feet of the hon. Minister himself. I would like to submit that it is not in any spirit of rancour or ill-will that I made my speech. I was certainly motivated by the best of motives. It is not a personal matter at all. I am not complaining of the manner in which my friend spoke about me. He has brought in a Bill. He wants to change the law. I object to this. Number one, the rights of this House should not be taken away in any the least manner and secondly in regard to the delegation, generally I am rather loath that this delegation should be made when the House is sitting and when we can very easily discuss. I appreciate the difficulties of my hon. friend in regard to this particular Bill but even now I am not satisfied......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When the House is sitting what is the good of passing an Ordinance? Why should not the Bill be introduced?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position really is that the House may not be in a position to take up the Bill. In spite of Mr. Basappa's arguments; in a matter like protection, a finality is something which eliminates speculation and if the Tariff Commission recommends, it takes some time for Government to reconsider. If Government passes a resolution, it comes into effect subject, of course, to the right of the House to rescind. For these two years it is going on. If a Notification is issued, within 15 days, the Bill must be introduced. We put all the Notifications together and put them into one.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: When the House is not sitting, an Ordinance could be issued but while the House is sitting no Ordinance could be issued. The original Bill of 1946 did not countenance the passing of any order when the House was sitting. When subsequent Bills came, then also we were not satisfied. While the House was sitting, there was no occasion for a Minister to pass anything like an order behind the back of the House, for which the Constitution had practically made the House responsible under articles 265. 105 and 110.

As you were pleased to observe, Sir, I for one do not feel any necessity for the hon. Minister to come forward with a Bill of this nature. He can very easily come to the House with a Bill for protection straightway at once. The Government can take a decision within three months according to the Tariff Commission Bill. Yet, now a provision has been made in this Bill for six months. My humble submission is that I do not agree that the Government cannot keep its secrets and there will be speculation, etc. These are farfetched arguments. I would like that ordinarily whenever such an occasion arises, the hon. Minister should come to this House for the original part of protection. Only in exceptional cases where coming to the House is impossible, or very difficult, or in some special circumstances which we cannot visualise just now, the Minister should take to Notification and subsequent legislation. Now, ordinarily, before the Minister comes here, he issues a Notification. This is an exceptional exercise of power which ordinarily we will not expect any Minister to do. We have made a provision that if the House is sitting, then, the Bill must be brought. That the hon. Minister has kindly agreed to. When the House is not sitting then, some time may elapse between the two periods, three or four months. What would happen? Lakhs of rupees would have been taken away from those people and that money cannot be refunded. Suppose the House does not agree to that kind of protection, what happens? The money has been recovered and it cannot be refunded. We cannot do anything. This aspect of the matter was also gone into on the previous occasion. In exceptional cases we agreed to that for two years. I can understand that some difficulty might have been felt by the hon. Minister. Now, they want to see that these powers are made permanent.

No argument has been advanced why they should be made permanent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is arguing the matter over again. The principle has been accepted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You have not been pleased to pass clause 2 so far. We are just on clause 2. I think the House is rather impatient. (*Some Hon. Members*: Yes.) I would not trouble the House with a long speech; I can understand that. But, as long as clause 2 is there, I am perfectly relevant so far as relevancy goes.

So far as the other provision about six months is concerned, I do not know of what use this amendment is. Even now according to the Constitution, between two sittings of the House, more than six months cannot elapse. The Bill will be placed before the House. But, when will it be passed? The Bill might not be passed. It may not suit the Government to pass the Bill for a number of months. Even after that, where is the provision that within a certain time, the Bill will be passed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry my hon. friend has not read the amendment. It says:

> "Provided further that where for any reason a Bill as aforesaid does not become law within six months from the date of its introduction in Parliament, the notification shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period of six months."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why this time of six months? Let me ask those Members, who have given this amendment. What are the arguments advanced before us to prolong this period from two months to six months? The Mover himself says that he is not happy over it. Why is he unhappy? Is it his practice to be unhappy over his own amendment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think this is provision for passing it in the next session if it is not passed in that session.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position, if I may interrupt my hon. friend, is this. Suppose the Bill is introduced at the end of the session and it cannot be passed in that session on account of other work or it is edged out. The Bill should not lapse. It should be passed immediately in the next session. That is the idea.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why not immediately? We do not know how much money will be taken away from the consumers. Can all that be refunded?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Nothing is taken away except that the money goes to the Government.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Even if it goes to the Government, I say no money should go to the Government unless the Government is entitled to that. If the House does not accept the recommendation, people are being mulcted and fined. It is an illegal exaction. The money cannot be refunded. After all, the rights of the people cannot be trampled in this way

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry to interrupt my hon. friend. The position as it works today is, we have got a ban practically on imports and then protection comes in. It is being done in an indirect way. That is what is happening today.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If my hon. friend says that it has been done in an indirect way, I would request him to look into the matter and do it in a direct way. There is no justification for allowing six months.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not mean that six months ought to elapse and it ought to be delayed for six months.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I would like to insist that even if this Bill is passed, the hon. Minister should see that six months do not elapse and that steps are taken to pass the Bill at once.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as I am concerned, I am acutely unhappy if any of my Bills are pending.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may also see that whenever during a session a Bill is introduced, it is passed.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir; I personally would give that undertaking. I would not like to allow even a month more than is absolutely necessary.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My hon. friend is giving an undertaking in a matter in which we do not suspect him. I have not the least doubt that he will do his best to get it passed. As long as this Government is there, I have no doubt that this Government will do the right thing. But, we are making a law for all time. That is the difficulty. As I said before, I do not

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

suspect my hon. friend at all. Our interests are perfectly safe in his hands. If I had my own way, I would completely commit myself to his care and feel perfectly safe. But, we are making a law for all time, for all Governments. That is why I am opposed to this six months period.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): Sir, the quorum is not there.

An Hon. Member: The quorum bell may be rung.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; for two minutes.

It is only disturbing the hon. Members who are taking tea; nothing more than that. They are still in the House. Yes; there is quorum.

The question is:

In page 1, after line 24, insert:

> "Provided that if the notification under sub-section (1) is issued when Parliament is in session, such a Bill shall be introduced in Parliament during that session.
>
> Provided further that where for any reason a Bill as aforesaid does not become law within six months from the date of its introduction in Parliament, the notification shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the said period of six months."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: With your permission, Sir, I would like to say one word. I will read only one portion of a speech. It was said:

> "But, so far as import duties are concerned which have to be supported by the recommendation of the Tariff Board, I do not think those emergency provisions are necessary particularly in view of the fact that Parliament is likely to sit most of the time during a year."

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member is quoting me against me.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: "I would earnestly plead with my hon. friend the Mover, and with his senior the Minister who is present here, that they had better drop this particular clause, and not to tinker with it so that we could have some notional satisfaction that we have been able to persuade the Government to dot the i's and cross the t's. Let them make a beginning from now onwards that they will trust Parliament to do the right thing and not increase the number of delegated legislations in the statute book."

This is what my hon. friend the Minister said and I endorse every word of what he said.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a difference. The hon. Minister is now a different person.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: He is not different; he is the same person to us even now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

*The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on **Thursday, the 5th March,** 1953.*